

# Inflation rate at 19.1% highest level since 1976

ation is at its highest for four years; the 1.4 cent increase in the retail prices index in February sent the annual inflation rate up to 19.1 per cent and it seems likely to go over 20 per cent. Manufacturers are under severe pressure on increased costs and their ability to absorb it is limited by the squeeze on profits.

## More price rises in pipeline

David Blake, Economics Editor, says that the big rise in prices in February sent the annual inflation rate up to 19.1 per cent, the highest for four years. The inflationary picture is certain to get worse, as the annual rate of price rises is likely to go over 20 per cent by June, but after that there should be some respite for the Government as the impact of its increases in value-added tax last June appear from the retail price index. However, inflation is likely to remain well in double figures until 1982. A 1.4 per cent increase in the index in February underlines the inflationary pressures. Chancellor has to contend as he draws up his budget for presentation to the House of Commons on March 26. The special effects of the food and discounted price movements over the six months are examined, as is usually taken as the ruling rate of inflation, was moving up in February, 1.8 per cent, an annual increase of 14.5 per cent in January. Further increases are in the pipeline. Wholesale prices, as measured by the factory gate, have risen at an annual rate of 1.5 per cent over the past months and the manufacturing sector has experienced even more severe pressure on their costs. As a result their profits have been severely squeezed, limiting their absorption of increases in the cost of raw materials or services. Fuel and material costs have been going up at an alarming rate, with the annual rate

## Rush into dollars as banks set record rates

By Caroline Atkinson  
The dollar made big gains against all major currencies in the foreign exchange markets yesterday ahead of the anti-inflation measures being announced by President Carter this morning. Speculators continued to pour money into dollars as American banks raised their prime lending rates to a record 18.5 per cent. Dealers were divided over how long-lived the dollar's rise would be. Some believed the market might be disappointed by President Carter's anti-inflation package. There were hopes that the American discount rate would rise by 2 points to a record of 15 per cent. Other dealers felt that the high returns now available on dollars would be attracted into the American currency for some time.

Central banks in Europe and Japan again attempted to limit the fall of the dollar. The West German Federal Bank intervened to the tune of \$125m, believed to be a record amount. The gold price fell sharply yesterday in reaction to the dollar's strength, touching its lowest point since Christmas Eve in European trading. However, gold picked up later in the day from below \$500 an ounce to close in London at \$530. This was a fall of \$25 in the day after a drop of \$32 on Thursday, and it was the lowest closing level for gold this year.

The gold price has now dropped by more than \$300 an ounce from its peak levels in late January, but most bullion dealers believe it will rise again in the coming months. Despite the action of the Federal Reserve Bank, the Deutsche Mark fell back against the dollar to its lowest level since last autumn. It closed at DM1.8325 to the dollar, down from DM1.8210 on Thursday. The Bonn government is now trying to attract money into the country to stop the mark from slipping further. There were reports yesterday that it would soon announce that it had obtained a DM10,000m loan from oil exporting countries. These reports were not confirmed, but the obvious next step in a policy of encouraging capital inflows. The pound fell sharply yesterday morning but recovered to finish at \$2.2145, down 85 points on the day. But against an average of other currencies the pound was up by 0.1 point at 72.2 per cent of its end-1977 value. Top banks raise prime rates, page 17



Thatcher protest: The Prime Minister, escorted by Mr Michael Eaton, the National Coal Board's North Yorkshire area director, went underground at Wistow pit site, Selby, yesterday during her tour of Yorkshire and Humberside. Steel strikers, miners, and housewives had intended to mount a demonstration but were outwitted and outnumbered by the police. Later demonstrators hurled eggs at her car in Hull. Eight people were charged with disorderly conduct. Report, page 2

## Mrs Thatcher helps the Tories to lick their by-election wounds

By Michael Hatfield  
Political Reporter  
Despite the brave face being put on by some ministers, there was no doubt that the Government was internally bruised by the by-election result at Southend, Essex, where the Conservative candidate managed to scrape home on a majority of 430 votes. Mr Edward (Teddy) Taylor, a former junior Conservative minister, proved the victor, but at the same time confirmed the seat, which commanded an 11,000 majority in the general election, had changed by some mysterious political and electoral chemistry into a marginal. Lord Thorneycroft, chairman of the Conservative Party, ducked the implications of the effect on party morale in a statement yesterday. He said: "We are satisfied to have won what was at times an unpleasant by-election campaign, characterized by the usual attacks on the Government. It came at a time when the Government is offering some tough but much-needed medicine. We have a responsible Government, willing to face up

to our deep-seated problems. Teddy Taylor fought a brave campaign. He returns to Parliament to join a party which will press forward doing what is needed to be done for the sake of the nation." Lord Thorneycroft's statement, designed to shine the light away from what ministers know was taking place in Southend, East, contrasted sharply with the natural jubilation of the Labour Party. The result was a "massive jolt for Mrs Thatcher's Government and represented a rejection of Thatcherism". Mr Ronald Hayward, general secretary of the party, stated. It showed that the people of Southend shared the view of people throughout Britain that Tory policies were stoking up inflation, throwing thousands out of work, and depleting important community services. Liberals also felt a sense of satisfaction at the result, particularly as their organization is not strongly represented in the constituency. Their candidate, Mr David Evans, almost doubled the Liberal vote, taking the party's share of the poll from 13 per cent to 25 per cent. Questions remain to be answered by the Conservative leadership. Senior politicians had been warned that the Tory majority might be reduced to about 3,000, but few expected the margin of victory to be as thin as it proved. Whatever gloss may be put on the win, the bald statistics show that the Government has been given a stern message by the party faithful. The Tory share of the votes dropped to 35.6 (a plus of 6.5) and the Liberals moved from 13.1 per cent to 25.1 (an increase of 12 per cent). Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, who was touring the Selby constituency yesterday, showed qualities of realpolitik when asked for her comments on the result: "We won as far as the by-election is concerned. There is no substitute for victory, and that is what we got." It was the kind of balm that any party needs when it is licking its wounds. Analysis, and photograph, page 2 Leader, page 15

## Mugabe compromise on April 18 for Zimbabwe handover

From Dan van der Var  
Salisbury, March 14  
Zimbabwe will become independent at midnight on April 17-18, a spokesman for Lord Soames, the Governor, said here today. Prince Charles will take part in the handover ceremony on April 18, it was also learned. Lord Soames leaves here for a short visit to London on Sunday when he will seek help for postwar reconstruction to leave London on Wednesday. His deputy, Sir Antony Duff, will be in charge in his absence. Mr Robert Mugabe wanted Lord Soames to stay longer and was prepared to wait for independence until his untied ministers had time to read themselves in. Today's announcement is therefore a compromise acceptable to both parties. Lord Soames will not be staying on in any capacity after independence. Lord Soames told British correspondents at Government House today that he had originally planned to hand over to the new Government at the end of this month and be back in London by Easter. "But the Prime Minister was most pressing that we should stay longer. This shows how intelligent he is. He has never been involved in government, nor does he have any political views. He recognizes the difficulties involved in taking over." The Governor made it clear he had every sympathy for Mr Mugabe's desire to have "some of the Rhodesian security forces and the Zulu and Zulu guerrilla armies. Many guerrillas would be disappointed that there was no room for them in the coming national army, but military considerations had had nothing to do with the delay of independence. Lord Soames expressed his pleasure at progress so far in the integration of the Rhodesian security forces and the Zulu and Zulu guerrilla armies. Many guerrillas would be disappointed that there was no room for them in the coming national army, but military considerations had had nothing to do with the delay of independence.

## Romania joins Britain in criticizing Moscow

Bucharest, March 14.—Romania, a Warsaw Pact member, issued a joint statement with Britain today implicitly condemning the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan and calling on Moscow to negotiate a solution. [Moscow hinted today that it was about to announce a four-point initiative on Afghanistan. Full report, page 4.] The Bucharest statement, issued at the end of a two-day visit here by Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, was by far the toughest criticism of the intervention from within the Soviet bloc. At Romania's insistence, Afghanistan was not mentioned by name but Bucharest left no doubt of its fear that the crisis might wreck East-West détente, informed sources said. The statement expressed deep concern at the deterioration of the international situation "as a result of policies based on force and violation of national independence." Britain and Romania "agree on the urgent need to halt the deterioration in world affairs, to settle international crises and to resume the policy of détente throughout the world to the benefit of all", the statement added. Lord Carrington told reporters yesterday that Romania and the West were broadly in agreement on Afghanistan. Informed sources reported that in the talks Romania also strongly condemned Soviet support for the Kampuchea-backed takeover in Kampuchea. Reuters.

## L swings from profit to loss of £122.2m

Clifford Webb made a loss before tax year of £122.2m compared with a profit of £1.7m in 1978. The loss was a swing of £123.9m, from a profit of £1.7m to a loss of £122.2m. The loss is at least £20m more than even the most pessimistic forecasts. The group's preliminary results yesterday showed that the chairman, Sir Michael Edwards, had made a further loss this year. It also revealed that the loss of his board supported by the group's Secretary, Sir Keith Joseph, and other senior executives, had led to a loss of at least £10m. His three year record from the time he joined the group in 1976, had ended in a loss of £122.2m.

The move has been expected for some time as Sir Michael's hint that he may not continue in the "24-hours-a-day job" as both chairman and chief executive. He said he was not totally committed to do all the things he had been doing and was absolutely flexible about which office he should hold. With the four-month-long impasse on BL Cars pay and new working conditions still unsettled, Sir Michael made it plain that he would not put the plan that he had been doing at production at Longbridge until the unions accepted at least the bulk of the company's proposals for current working practices. Without them, he said, it would be impossible to achieve the criteria built into the company's recovery plan. Reviewing the factors which had caused such a heavy loss he said 1979 got off to a good start with profits and cash flow better than planned. But the national engineering strike from July to early October reversed all this progress, costing the company about £50m. In addition, because the strike did not affect many of BL's competitors, its market share was severely affected. This led to the current loss-off. Had management not been well down the deficit would have been very much higher. Leyland Vehicles, the lorry and bus subsidiary, made "an insignificant trading profit". However, after the successful launch of two new lorries—Landtrain and Roadtrain—and the introduction of improved working practices, the company was now in a more competitive position and should improve its trading profit this year. BL Cars was the major problem. The uncertainty over its wage deal—now in its fifth month—had affected its market share. Coupled with the effect of the strong pound on exports, and the gap until the new Marina appeared in June and the Metro in October, this meant that BL Cars would have a difficult 1980 and almost inevitably another loss. Answering questions at a London press conference, Sir Michael said the steel strike would inevitably cost the British Steel Corporation some £10m in the long term. He said it was not so much a matter of legal foreign steel entering but "because you end up finding that you can get a more viable relationship elsewhere." This almost certainly means cheaper foreign steel and in some instances better quality.

## End safety cover, say steel strike leaders

From R. W. Shakespeare  
Manchester  
The Government and the British Steel Corporation are facing their biggest challenge from the steel strike leaders. The complete withdrawal of crucial safety cover at all steel plants, a move that would result in millions of pounds worth of damage to equipment and mean months of costly repairs, was even after the strike ends. This new move is part of a tough four-point strategy drawn up yesterday by senior strike leaders representing all the unions in the industry—those in the steel-making and craft sections—from all plants in England, Wales and Scotland at a meeting in Manchester. The 70 delegates voted unanimously on the recommendation that safety cover should be withdrawn "forthwith". British Steel has only a brief breathing space to consider its response to the threat. This is because the delegates decided to forward their recommendation to the executives of the unions concerned. These executives will be meeting before Wednesday. The strike leaders have left them in no doubt that they expect the unions to adopt the plan. Mr Stanley Sheridan, spokesman for the national joint multi-union strike coordination committee, which convened yesterday's meeting, said: "There is no doubt that if the call had gone straight out from this meeting, safety cover would have been withdrawn within 24 hours." It is clear that the strike will enter a new, and even tougher phase from this week-end. The strike leaders launched plans to place a complete block on all steel-using industries. This will be done, not only through heavy picketing throughout the country, but also by enlisting the support of other unions to block supplies of steel, oil, gas, and other raw materials to steel users. Another key decision taken at yesterday's meeting was a call on national union leaders to abandon further pay negotiations with British Steel until the corporation was prepared to meet the claim for 20 per cent. Continued on page 2, col 4

## S boxing am dies air crash

Warsaw, March 14.—A Polish man died in a crash landing of a Warsaw airport today, killing all 37 on board including nine United States boxing team members and six accompanying staff—doctors, nurses, and referees—on the way from New York to a day match with Poland's national team, a spokesman for the United States Amateur Athletic Union said. The mayor of Warsaw used two days of mourning. Injuries said the Soviet Lysunov-62 crashed two miles from the airport in the lee of a nineteenth-century tower which is surrounded by earthworks and lies close to the city's main railway station. A Polish news agency said the aircraft was 100 yards above runway at Okęcie airport when it crashed. It carried 37 passengers and crew of 10. Reuters. Six deaths: Eighteen American soldiers were killed yesterday when a United States Air Force transport aircraft crashed near the Incirlik base in southern Turkey. Ankara Correspondent.

## Russia attacks Olympics boycott campaign

Attempts to organize a boycott of the Olympic Games in Moscow are not being taken lightly by the Russians. Mr Vladimir Popov, a deputy head of the Soviet Olympic organizing committee said. They are seen by the Soviet Union as a threat not just to the Moscow games but to the Olympic movement as a whole. Mr Popov, a former Deputy Minister of Culture, said the boycott campaign was in breach of all the rules and traditions of the Olympic Charter. The unhappy saga of the Abkhaz (Amendment) Bill appeared to have ended in the Commons with its supporters being criticized for having mishandled it. All hopes were lost for the strongly supported compromise for the lower time limit of 24 weeks; and the chances of the measure being discussed again this session are remote. Page 3

## Niedermayer body identified

Police in Northern Ireland confirmed that a body found at a rubbish tip at Dummurry, near Ballymena, was that of Mr Thomas Niedermayer, the German industrialist kidnapped six years ago. Page 4

## Midland Bank profits soar

Midland Bank became the third of the big clearing banks to announce a huge increase in profits. They went up by 36 per cent to £315.5m but Midland is to join other banks in adjusting the figures to inflation to ward off criticisms of excessive gains. Page 17

## New transplant at Harefield

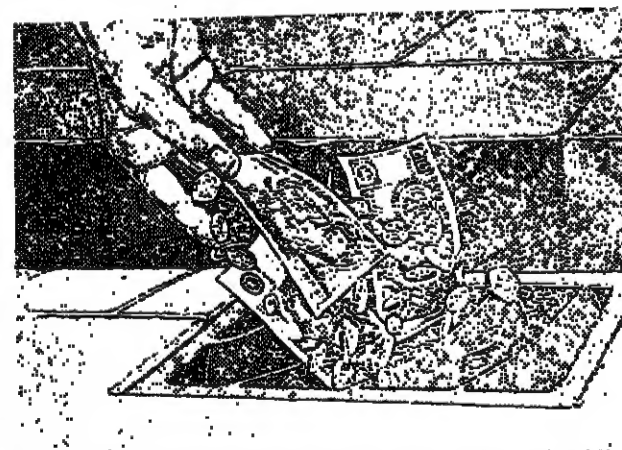
A fourth patient was given a new heart at Harefield Hospital, near Uxbridge. He was conscious within hours of the operation and had a cup of tea. The donor was a man aged 31 who died from natural causes. Page 3

## Civil Service offered 14% more and big cuts in jobs

By David Felton  
The Government yesterday announced that it has set a cash limit for civil servants' pay rises this year of 14 per cent, linked with up to 20,000 job cuts. The announcement met with a rather muted response from the unions, who will be meeting next week to decide whether to take industrial action in protest. Mr Paul Channon, the minister responsible for the Civil Service, said the manpower squeeze was "right on its own merits" and happened to coincide with the fixing of cash limits. The 14 per cent limit falls well short of expectations of the unions, who estimate that evidence from the independent Pay Research Unit shows that rises of between 18 per cent and 20 per cent are due. Mr Channon said: "I hope there will be no industrial action. After all they are getting a generous pay research settlement which we shall now start to negotiate. I would think that moderate people would see that in view of the state of the economy, they have been treated fairly." The nine unions which represent 500,000 white collar civil servants are meeting on Tuesday to discuss tactics. Mr William Kendall, secretary general of the union side, said last night: "I think it is right to wait until Tuesday to give the unions the chance of consulting their senior officers and disputes committees before launching into any protest." "This is a Cabinet decision and anything to overturn it has got to be powerful stuff."

## Shah in hospital

Panama City, March 14.—The former Shah was flown from his retreat on Contadora Island and taken to hospital here today for treatment for an enlarged spleen.



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British Summer Time begins  
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March. It will be put  
forward by one hour.

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## HOME NEWS

# Eight arrests as egg-throwing demonstrators confront Mrs Thatcher on Hull visit

From Ronald Kershaw  
Hull

Eight people were arrested for alleged disorderly conduct in scuffles with police at Hull yesterday when demonstrators greeted the Prime Minister on her tour of Yorkshire and Humberside.

Main trouble spots were outside the Royal Station Hotel, Hull, where Mrs Thatcher met local newspaper editors and representatives of the fishing industry, and at the Hull factory of Smith and Nephew, surgical dressing manufacturers, where about 250 employees out of the 2,000 work force took the afternoon off to protest at government policies.

From a crowd of about 200 demonstrators, mostly students, outside the hotel, eggs were thrown and hit Mrs Thatcher's car.

Earlier in the day striking steel workers, militant miners and angry housewives set out to confront the Prime Minister on her tour of Yorkshire and Humberside. Three coaches and a fleet of cars carried demonstrators from Rotherham, Sheffield and South Yorkshire mining villages to the Selby coalfield, where Mrs Thatcher

went down the 1,000ft Wistow shaft, the first of ten to serve the £600m Selby mining complex.

Country roads approaching the Wistow workings were closed and about 500 police from North Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, West Yorkshire and Derbyshire, aided by a task force and mounted police, were on hand to control expected crowds. In the event about only 200 steel pickets turned up. Not only outnumbered, they were also outwitted and found themselves demonstrating on an empty approach road to the National Coal Board site, Mrs Thatcher having entered from the opposite direction.

At Wistow Mrs Thatcher went underground in a kibble, a metal bucket designed to carry men and materials in the shaft.

Commenting on the Southend by-election result, she said: "I would have preferred we had a bigger majority. Don't forget I have been on the other side and the thing that counts is whether you win or lose, and we won."

Mrs Thatcher said she had not seen the pickets but said of the steel strike: "I just hope it will come to an end very quickly. Quite apart from

the difficulty of the British Steel Corporation getting orders back many companies have been without income. It must be very tough on them."

She said she was very worried for wives of steelworkers on restricted social security benefits.

At Wistow Mrs June Smith, a farmer's wife, was easing her tractor along a packed road when she ran over the foot of Mr Tim Widdowson, of Darnall, Sheffield. He was not seriously injured.

On Mrs Thatcher's next call, at the Hull factory of Smith and Nephew, she was greeted by a line of pickets. Mrs Thatcher went ahead in her coaches and greeted her with jeers; a woman threw an egg which missed the Prime Minister's car.

The visit to Smith and Nephew was a last-minute change of plan when the Prime Minister called at Reckitt house-hold toiletries plant was called off by the firm because ASTMS members were striking over redundancy measures.

The Prime Minister agreed to meet a deputation of employers, unions and docks board people to discuss the problems of the port of Hull. No date was fixed.

## Southend suggests that fickle voters have ended Government honeymoon

By Ivor Crewe

Southend, East, gave Conservatives their least joyful by-election victory for many years. In spite of only a modest drop in turnout, 40 per cent of their general election supporters deserted. The 12.9 per cent swing to Labour was the second largest in any by-election since Stratford 17 years ago.

More disturbing for the Conservatives, it came unexpectedly soon into their term of office. Ten months into the Heath Government the by-election swing to Labour was much smaller, only 4 to 5 per cent.

One compensation for the Conservatives is that part of their trouble arose from the strictly local factor of fielding a conspicuous outsider to follow a long-standing MP. Recent polls suggest that in the country as a whole the anti-Conservative swing is 7 to 8 per cent.

Another crumb of comfort is that in the general election the pro-Conservative swing in

Southend, East, as in most of Essex, was above the national average. A sharp return of the pendulum might have been expected anyway.

The losing parties both have grounds to be pleased. In a constituency where they tend to poll close to their national average, the Liberals doubled their vote from 13 per cent to 25 per cent.

The rise was sharper than at the two earlier by-elections of Manchester, Central (+8.8 per cent) and Hertfordshire, South-West (+7.4 per cent), and better than suggested by their 18 per cent standing in recent polls. It has also come much earlier under this government than under Mr Heath's, when there was little sign of a Liberal revival for nearly three years.

Labour's pleasure will be partly one of relief. They had reason to fear a loss of support, either through their internal but very public wrangling, or by "tactical" switching to the Liberal by some of their supporters, as happened in safe

Conservative seats at by-elections in 1973. In the event their vote share rose by 6.5 per cent in the poll, but has since the constituency since 1966.

The result offers three general lessons. First, local constituency associations select outsiders, especially recently defeated ministers, at their peril.

Secondly, electors have begun the 1980s in as fickle a mood as they showed throughout the 1970s.

Thirdly, the predicted Liberal climb back is well under way. It has started sooner, gathering greater speed, and from a higher base than under previous Conservative governments.

Leading article, page 15

### SOUTHEND, EAST

	1970	1974	Change
Taylor, E. M. (C)	13,117		
George, C. (Lab)	12,687		
Evans, D. E. (L)	8,939		
Robertson, T. A. (New)		532	
Smedley, W. G. (ANIEEC)		207	
Curry, J. W. J. (Ind L)		132	
Boaks, W. G. (Public Safety)		23	
Majority	430		

	1970	1974	Change
Cons	38.8%	58.1%	-19.3%
Lab	35.8%	29.1%	+6.5%
Lib	25.1%	13.1%	+12%
Nat Front	—	1.7%	—
New	—	—	—
Britain	1.5%	—	—
Anti-SEC	0.6%	—	—
Ind Lib	0.3%	—	—
Public	—	—	—
Safety	0.1%	—	—
Poll	82.5%	70.1%	-7.6%
Electorate	57,027	57,097	-10%

The Public Safety, Ind Lib, New Britain, and Anti-SEC candidates lost their deposits.

General election, May, 1979: Sir S. McAdden (C) 22,413; T. N. Wright (Lab) 11,638; J. Huggill (L) 5,244; P. Twomey (Nat Front) 576; majority 10,774.



Mr Taylor and his wife, Sheila, finding the world a happier place after his by-election win.

## The Queen cancels visit to BSC foundry

By Craig Seton

The Queen has cancelled a visit to a British Steel Corporation foundry at Workington, Cumbria, next Friday because of the steel strike.

Buckingham Palace said yesterday that she had been advised not to go ahead with the official opening of the new £11m Workington iron foundry development at British Steel's Chapel Bank works.

It is understood that the decision was not reached because of fears of a demonstration by the steelworkers, but because the plant would be empty and idle. It was taken at the palace and did not involve advice or recommendation by the Government or police.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will now make a scheduled visit to a phosphoric acid works at Whitehaven on Friday morning and spend the afternoon at the Carnegie Arts Centre in Workington.

Our Labour Editor writes: Mr William Sims, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, said at Consert, Co Durham: "It is unfortunate the Queen is not going ahead with her visit because I'm sure that our members would give her the right royal welcome to which she is entitled."

"Being loyal citizens, we have tremendous respect for the Queen. I would urge her to think again."

## No more wheeling meals for diners in the sky

# Tallest British restaurant to close

By Alan Hamilton

There was always one restaurant in London where, when the room began to spin after the third large Courtoisier glass, you could reliably blame the room rather than the brandy.

Now, after 14 unchallenged years of holding the British altitude record for serving Dover sole en plénier, the nation's tallest restaurant is to close.

Whatever it may have lacked in gastronomy, the Top Of The Tower made up in gimmickry. Situated 620 feet above Howland Street in the West End, at the top of the Post Office Tower, the revolving restaurant has been copied in Liverpool and other cities of what used to be the Empire.

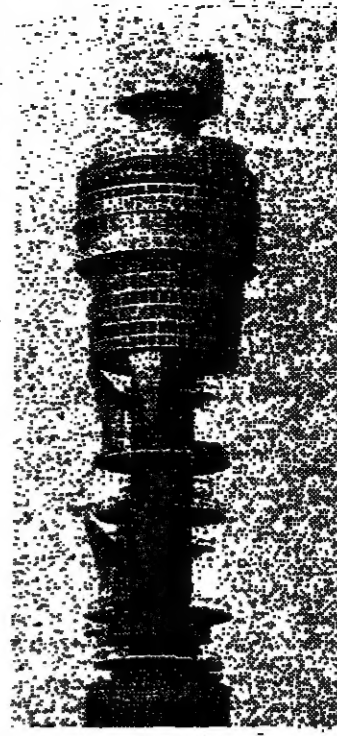
It was opened in 1966, a symbol of that halcyon decade for Britain when the quality of the cuisine took second place to the unique experience of looking down the compass on silent rubber wheels, a journey of some 20 minutes which was occasionally known to be completed between courses.

Since then it has been an immensely popular attraction, and has served a total of 1.6 million rotating dinners.

The last revolving meals will be served on the 34th floor, and the last drinks on the 35th, on June 19.

The Post Office has given notice to Burlington, the restaurant's operators, that its lease will not be renewed when it expires on June 19.

Closure is necessary, the Post



The Top of the Tower, where the wheel has turned full circle.

Office says, because the lifts which take diners from the street to their tables are in need of renewal after 17 years of continuous use.

Meanwhile it will carry out a study to see if security needs

will permit greater public use of the top floors when the new lifts are installed, early in 1983. A new restaurant is not ruled out.

In 1971 the public-viewing galleries were closed after a bomb exploded on the 31st floor, and since then the only way to enjoy the finest available panorama of London has been to book a table in the restaurant.

At the time of the bombing, the restaurant closed for six weeks; but apart from that interruption its operators have been hoisting machinery had never broken down.

The 92 staff, who have served both a set menu, now £8.90 for three courses, and an extensive à la carte, are expected to be dispersed to other catering establishments in the Rank group.

Mr Guido Edwards, aged 63, who has been manager since the opening day, has chosen retirement instead.

Although it never won a reputation for culinary excellence sufficient to make the star rating in the Guide Michelin, it was a solid commercial success, and can be one of the few restaurants in London to boast a 15m-a-year turnover.

Seekers after rare culinary experiences will in future be obliged to come down to earth, and to realize that it is time to pay the bill and call a taxi.

## Steel town on the march to save its livelihood

From Paul Routledge  
Labour Editor

The took to the streets in Consert yesterday to launch a campaign to save the local steelworks, threatened with closure by the British Steel Corporation.

More than 3,000 steel workers, many with their wives and children, marched with trade unionists from all over the region through the town to protest at the proposed closure of a works that has been strike-bound for 11 weeks.

A thin, cold drizzle fell on the damped-down blast furnaces near by as the marchers made their way to a rally in the Empire cinema that set in motion a movement that is likely to prove a serious obstacle to British Steel's plant closure programme.

The dispute takes on a different aspect when viewed from the vantage point of a single-industry town such as Consert, where 3,700 jobs will go directly and half as many again indirectly, if the programme goes as planned.

The risk to jobs and "the destruction of a community" is clearly regarded here as even more important than the strike over pay. Some workers in the bar of the Irish Democratic working men's club were willing to admit that a ballot of the workers next week could result in acceptance of the corporation's 14.4 per cent offer.

But on the issue of closure there is unanimity. Mr William

Sims, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, was given a standing ovation when he promised: "We are going to fight this shut-down tooth and nail."

Consert is regarded by steel union leaders as the acid test of the willingness of workers in the industry to forego "iron handshakes" averaging £8,000 a man for the sake of future employment prospects.

"I challenge you not to look with envy at severance payments, because they will absolutely destroy this town," Mr Sims urged more enthusiasm in the Cabinet over the future of this steel works than any other part of British Steel closure policy. According to Mr David Watkins, Labour MP for

Consert, the plant was making substantial profits after 2,500 jobs were shed last autumn: £115,000 in October and £340,000 in November.

Eastern block links: Two leaders of the steelworkers' strike were told by their union yesterday not to pursue their intention to seek financial help from brother unions in Eastern Europe (Alan Hamilton writes).

Mr John Cowling and Mr Michael Skelton, both officials of the ISIC at Corby, had intended to call on the London embassies of the Soviet Union and Poland to solicit donations from steelworkers' unions.

They were asked to call at the confederation's London headquarters, where officials told them that it was not the policy of the union to beg

for money. "We see no reason why where they have no income a trade union should be defined as a major activity by its members," the Shadow Cabinet said.

Shadow ministers real recommendation files in of the party conference, last year. But they expected that "fuller" range of the issues involved in the party to recognize it is great merit in the compromise formula to now resuscitated.

They also argued that should be change method of electing a leader, despite pressure the left that there should wider electoral college the present confines of

liminary Labour Party

## Strikers vote to blockade users' raw materials

Continued from page 1

cent pay increases "without strings".

Mr Sheridan said: "We believe the negotiations must cease forthwith, and not be resumed until British Steel is prepared to face the primary objective of this strike."

The withdrawal of safety cover, it is backed by the union executives, would put immense pressure on British Steel.

Once blast furnaces are allowed to cool below a certain optimum level, they suffer enormous structural damage, BSC's tough warning. British Steel has issued its toughest warning yet that the corporation's entire business was at risk as a result of the 11-week nationwide strike by its

employees (Our Industrial Editor writes).

"Sir Charles Villiers, the corporation's chairman, undermined the gravity of the parlous state of the corporation and warned the strikers in uncompromising terms that the longer the strike continued, the fewer jobs there would be and the higher the imports."

"The whole of our business is at risk. If we do not look out, we shall go down like cars, motorcycles, cameras, and ships. Steel is in very grave danger."

The corporation, which has been losing £10m a week because of the strike, is concerned at the increasing number of some of its important customers, including BL, who are turning to foreign steelmakers for supplies.

## Women trade unionists seek 2,4,5-T ban

From Frances Gibb  
Brighton

Women trade unionists called on the TUC yesterday to press the Government to ban the use of 2,4,5-T, which contains the toxic substance dioxin thought to cause miscarriages, deformities and cancer.

More than 250 delegates at the TUC women's conference at Brighton voted overwhelmingly for the ban after hearing that the weedkiller could be bought on the open market.

Branding a small container of the weedkiller, Miss Ann Hock of the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers, told delegates that it merely carried a warning: "Keep away from children."

"It does not say keep away from the unborn child," she added. "This chemical, sold on the open market, is putting women, babies and those who produce it at risk."

Women producing the chemical did not have protective clothing, she said. "Do we have to put up with deformed children or miscarriages and say 'here is the evidence of what this chemical does'?"

Another delegate said that British Rail was using the weedkiller on its tracks throughout the country. A third said it was surprised that the chemical industry had been able to produce such a potentially poisonous substance for so long with such impunity.

The conference also urged the TUC to tell workers of dangers to pregnant women handling substances preventing the

normal development of foetus.

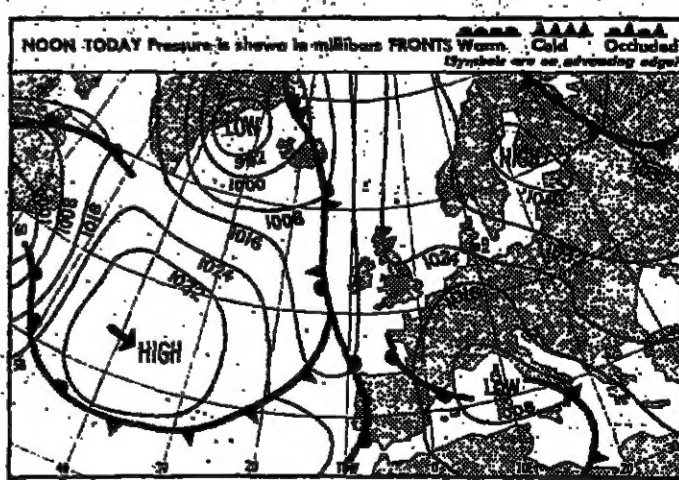
In a unanimous vote the Government cuts lead to mass unemployment because of the jobs women were traditionally played.

It also called on the Government to urge the real value of child and index-link terms.

Railways' ban: Sheffield women said yesterday it would refuse to man the for spraying tracks with herbicides containing the chemical 2,4,5-T (see field Correspondence).

Local officials of the Union of Railwaymen that members would be if they came into contact with the chemical.

## Weather forecast and recordings



Today	Tomorrow
Sun rises: 6.15 am Moon rises: 5.45 am New moon: 10.00 am Lighting up: 6.35 pm to 6.42 am High water: London Bridge 12.15 am, 6.7m; 12.49 pm, 7.1m; Avonmouth 6.1 am, 13.0m; 6.30 pm, 13.2m; Dover 9.36 am, 6.4m; 10.3 am, 6.5m; Hull 4.58 am, 6.9m; 5.9 pm, 7.2m; Liverpool 10.1 am, 9.3m; 10.29 pm, 9.3m. BST minus 2.0 am.	Sun rises: 7.12 am Moon rises: 7.17 am New moon: 7.56 pm Lighting up: 7.37 pm to 6.40 am High water: London Bridge 2.9 am, 7.1m; 2.38 pm, 7.5m; Avonmouth 7.54 am, 13.9m; 8.20 pm, 13.9m; Dover 11.23 am, 6.7m; 11.47 am, 6.9m; Hull 6.47 am, 7.4m; 6.56 pm, 7.7m; Liverpool 11.48 am, 9.6m. 1st = 0.3045m, 1m = 3.2808ft.

A ridge of high pressure extends SW across W Britain from a high over N Europe.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight: S.W. England, S. Wales, S. Ireland: Mostly dry but cloudy, bright intervals; wind NE, moderate; max temp 6°C (43°F).

East Angles, E. England: Cloudy, drizzle at times near coast; wind NE, fresh; max temp 5°C (41°F) to 43°F.

S.W. Wales, S. Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man, S.W. Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands: Mostly dry, cloudy but bright or sunny intervals; wind NE, scattered showers; wind E or SE light; max temp 6 to 8°C (43 to 46°F).

N.E. England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen: Cloudy, hill fog, drizzle or sleet at times; wind E or SE light; max temp 5 to 6°C (41 to 43°F).

At times: wind E, moderate; max temp 5°C (41°F).

Moray Firth, N.E. Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Cloudy, bright intervals, scattered showers; wind SE, moderate or fresh; max temp 5°C (41°F).

Arctic, N.W. Scotland, N. Ireland: Dry, some sunshine; wind S, light or moderate; increasing fresh; max temp 7 to 9°C (45 to 48°F). Frost in places.

Outlook for tomorrow and Monday: Continuing cold and cloudy, some rain in the S and drizzle near E coasts, some rain in NW. Sea passages: S. North Sea, Strait of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind NE, fresh or strong, sea moderate or rough. Wind NE, veering SE, light or moderate; sea slight.

Overseas selling prices: Australia \$1.50, Canada \$1.50, Hong Kong \$1.50, India \$1.50, Japan \$1.50, New Zealand \$1.50, Singapore \$1.50, South Africa \$1.50, Switzerland \$1.50, Taiwan \$1.50, Thailand \$1.50, United States \$1.50, West Germany \$1.50, Yugoslavia \$1.50.

## Solti sweeps 'Grammy' Awards for Decca

The United States National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences has awarded Decca half of its ten classical citations. Of the five Decca awards, three are prestigious recordings which feature

**Sir Georg Solti** conducting the

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

Best Classical Orchestral Recording

and Best Classical Album

**BRAHMS: SYMPHONIES 1-4**

Best Choral Performance

**BRAHMS: A GERMAN REQUIEM**

Best Choral Performance

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**BRAHMS: A GERMAN REQUIEM**

## Defeat on school transport 'serious' for councils

By Christopher Warman  
Local Government Correspondent

The House of Lords' rejection of plans for school transport charges would create "very serious problems" for local authorities, Sir John Grogan, policy chairman of the Association of County Councils, said yesterday.

The rate support grant settlement by the Government implied that upwards of £30m would be found from parental contributions to school transport, but this had to be found elsewhere.

Sir John said that an additional difficulty was the forthcoming comparability award for teachers. Every 1 per cent granted nationally amounted to £44m, and if the wage claim was up to the 50 per cent which had been mentioned as a possibility, the bill would be frightening.

It would be inequitable to put more on the rates to pay for the extra money needed for school transport.

Most authorities had made the cuts they could without damaging the service. Many would have to alter the way they made reductions at the "chalk face", meaning teachers, he said.

Keat County Council stands to lose £16m if it is not allowed to charge for school transport. Mr John Barnes, chairman of the education committee, said that its policy remained firm on the principle of parental contribution, and it would wait until the Cabinet Secretary on Tuesday what action to take after the Lords' decision.

The National Farmers' Union welcomed the Lords' decision. Mr Len Hallett, chairman of the parliamentary committee, said: "We hope that the Government now appreciates the need for its mainstream policies to be more sensitive to the different requirements of urban and rural areas."

Our Political Staff writes: The defeat in the Lords of school transport is to be considered at a ministerial meeting next week. However, it was being made plain yesterday that the Government would run the risk of a second defeat if it decided to reintroduce the proposal at report stage.

Privately some peers who support the Government were expressing a quixotic delight at the result, for they saw it as giving lie to the myth that the Lords always supported a Conservative Government.

## Dutch corner cupboard fetches £8,400

By Huon Mallouey

A sale of Continental furniture and works of art at Sotheby's yesterday made a total of £134,985, with 12 per cent bought in, and 100 lots of rugs and carpets were sold for a total of £29,785, with 6.7 per cent bought in.

A pretty Dutch marquetry corner cupboard of about 1750, inlaid on burr walnut, sold for £8,400 (estimate £5,000 to £8,000). A late eighteenth-century Italian marquetry secrétaire, described as being "of unusual form", having doors above and below a fitted secrétaire drawer, went to a dealer from Italy at £5,300 (estimate £800 to £1,200), and

a private buyer paid £5,200 for a serpentine Kluge German walnut bureau cabinet (estimate £3,000 to £4,000).

The most expensive of the carpets was a Senneh rug of about 1870, which fetched £1,900 (estimate £1,000 to £2,000). At Christie's a sale of British and Continental nineteenth and twentieth-century paintings produced a total of £25,605, with 27 per cent bought in. Almost all of the more expensive lots went to private buyers, including views of the Medway, near Chatham, and the Thames near Norfolk, by William Thornley, which sold for £1,800 (estimate £800 to £1,200), and

a sale of books at



## HOME NEWS

## Abortion Bill ends its unhappy saga with criticism of sponsor

Hugh Noyes  
Parliamentary Correspondent

The unhappy saga of the Abortion (Amendment) Bill, which has ended yesterday in the Commons as opponents and supporters of the Bill have both failed to win a majority, was a welter of bitterness and acrimony. The Bill, which would have allowed a woman to abort on demand up to 28 weeks, was defeated by a vote of 155 to 149. The session for private members' legislation, but the Bill was not discussed yet, let alone completing its passage through the Commons, was a far cry from the passage of the Bill in the House of Lords. The Bill was introduced by Mr. John Morris, an opposition spokesman on legal affairs, who claimed that it was the intolerant attitude of some MPs which had jeopardized the Bill. Another Labour backbencher, Mr. Ian Mikardo, remarked that if there was to be some sort of compromise solution, he feared it would have to be on another occasion. The chance of getting it in this session had been missed. Mr. Mikardo, a supporter of the 24-week solution, said the Bill was "substantially" as criteria by which a doctor had to consider the risk to a pregnant woman when deciding if an abortion should take place.

The rest of the proceedings were taken up with decisions on amendments debated on an earlier occasion seeking to delete sections of the Bill in the interests of the 24-week compromise. But it was too late and the sitting ended with several divisions still to come and two more groups of amendments to be debated.

From the Labour benches Mr. Peter Archer, an opposition spokesman on legal affairs, said that if ever sponsors deserved to lose their Bill it was the sponsors of this one after the way they had behaved.

Mr. John Morris, opposition spokesman on legal affairs, claimed that it was the intolerant attitude of some MPs which had jeopardized the Bill.

Parliamentary report, page 11

## IP will ask about Corby hotel delay

Our Correspondent

William Homewood, MP for Kettering, is to make an inquiry into why it took so long to trace the source of the disease organism in the Strathclyde Hotel, Corby, which was open for 10 days last week after a germ was found in the water system. Ten days ago a middle-aged man taken ill with the disease was staying there.

Mr. Homewood said: "I shall be raising the matter in the House of Commons, to find out why it took so long to trace the source and why local authorities were not told of the risk in the first place."

Mr. Homewood said: "The water was tested by engineers and found last night (the Press reports), Mr. Ian Galt, the hotel manager, said today: 'We can only hope that the water will not be affected by this problem'."

Spence Galbraith, of the Environment's Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre, said the incubation period for the disease was between three and 10 days, but anyone who stayed at the hotel in the 21 days could be suffering from the symptoms.

## Slight fall in serious crime total

Home Office statistics issued yesterday for serious crime in England and Wales showed that the total of 2,537,000 was slightly lower than that of 1978 and 4 per cent lower than in 1977.

The Home Office statistical department said: "The decrease in the last two years followed a very sharp rise of 15 per cent in 1977 and the average annual rate of increase over the 10 years 1969-1979 was nearly 5 per cent."

The slight decrease between the 1978 total of 2,561,500 and 1979 was in the first quarter. When seasonal factors were excluded the number of serious offences recorded in each of the last three quarters of 1979 was similar to the number in each quarter of 1978.

While other offences dropped there was a 9 per cent increase in violence against the person, to 95,000 cases. Sexual offences were down from 22,400 to 21,300. Burglary offences dropped from 58,700 to 54,900.

Fraud and forgery cases fell from 122,200 to 119,000 last year; but criminal damage was up from 306,200 cases in 1978 to 320,500 last year.

The number of serious offences cleared up last year totalled 981,000, 41 per cent of the total cases known to police, showing little change from the preceding two years.

## Fitch in Coniston plan for water speed record

John Chatterton

A planning committee of the District Council of Coniston yesterday deferred a decision on whether to permit an attempt on the world water speed record on Coniston Water this year.

Mr. Chatterton said: "The committee declined to consider an application to use the lake by Mr. Lesley Brown, a Manchester-based contractor, in the absence of a letter from him setting out precise details of what attempt might involve."

Mr. Chatterton said later, however, that full details should reach the committee in time for next month's meeting. He hoped to break the present world record held by Mr. Kenneth Brown, an Australian, in late 1979 or early June this year.

Mr. Chatterton said that the lake was a large stretch of water, used by other craft and in right conditions capable of setting a mirror smooth surface.

face, Coniston has an emotional appeal for Mr. Lesley Brown and his team because of Mr. Donald Campbell's death there 13 years ago while attempting to set a new record in his boat Bluebird. Mr. Campbell, chief engineer of the new project, worked in the last Bluebird team under the late Mr. Lesley Brown, who was a mechanic to Mr. Donald Campbell and, before that, to his father, Sir Malcolm Campbell.

Mr. Noble said yesterday that Mr. Lesley's boat, so far unnamed, was being built at a factory in the Midlands. It would be powered by a Rolls-Royce Viper jet aircraft engine and four of these power units had been acquired.

Mr. Lesley and his team several of whom were involved in design work on the Concorde, have been studying the film of Mr. Donald Campbell's fatal run on Coniston when Bluebird became momentarily airborne.

## Helicopter saves engineer hurt tanker blast

naval helicopter from Lee

naval helicopter from Lee, Kent, Hampshire flew to the aid of a small tank 20 miles south of the lake of yesterday morning after explosion and fire in the room injured the chief engineer and immobilized the ship.

The officer was taken to the naval hospital. The ship tanker Runc, 900 tons, was carrying a crew of 11 and carrying a cargo of lubricating oil, was in tow by a Dutch tug.

A day call was made about the ship. We are still unaware of the extent of the damage in the engine room. We have had no reports of casualties other than the chief engineer. We have also had no information about the cause of the explosion and

## RSPCA plea for stricter laws to save badgers

From Our Correspondent

York. The RSPCA appealed last night for a tightening of the laws to save badgers.

It followed the acquittal of Mr. Maurice Bell, aged 43, of Hawes, Master of Wensleydale Hounds, who was accused of Leyburn of possessing a live badger on a day last year when his hounds were hunting in the Yorkshire dales.

So far there has not been a successful prosecution under the 1973 Badger Act, said a spokesman at RSPCA headquarters in Horsham, Sussex.

The prosecution said that Mr. Bell was stopped by police with the badger in his vehicle. He denied the charge but said he had taken the badger from three men and was returning it to its sett when the police stopped him.

## Medieval fair at festival

Our Correspondent

burgh medieval fair, featuring jousting and court jesters, at theatre and animals is used as part of the Edinburgh Festival.

will be one of the fringe events on August 26, and part of the 12th restoration appeal for St. Giles' Cathedral. It is proposed that the fair will be held in the square in front of the cathedral.

the fringe this year looks being bigger and better

than last year's record of 328 performing groups.

The fringe organizers said that 60 companies are expected from abroad. Nearly 225 companies have confirmed appearances at this year's fringe, compared with under 200 at the same time last year.

Andrew Cruickshank, the actor and fringe chairman, stressed the importance of the fringe for the theatre. He said commercial theatre was in jeopardy and the established theatre vulnerable.

## Fourth heart transplant performed at Harefield

By John Roper

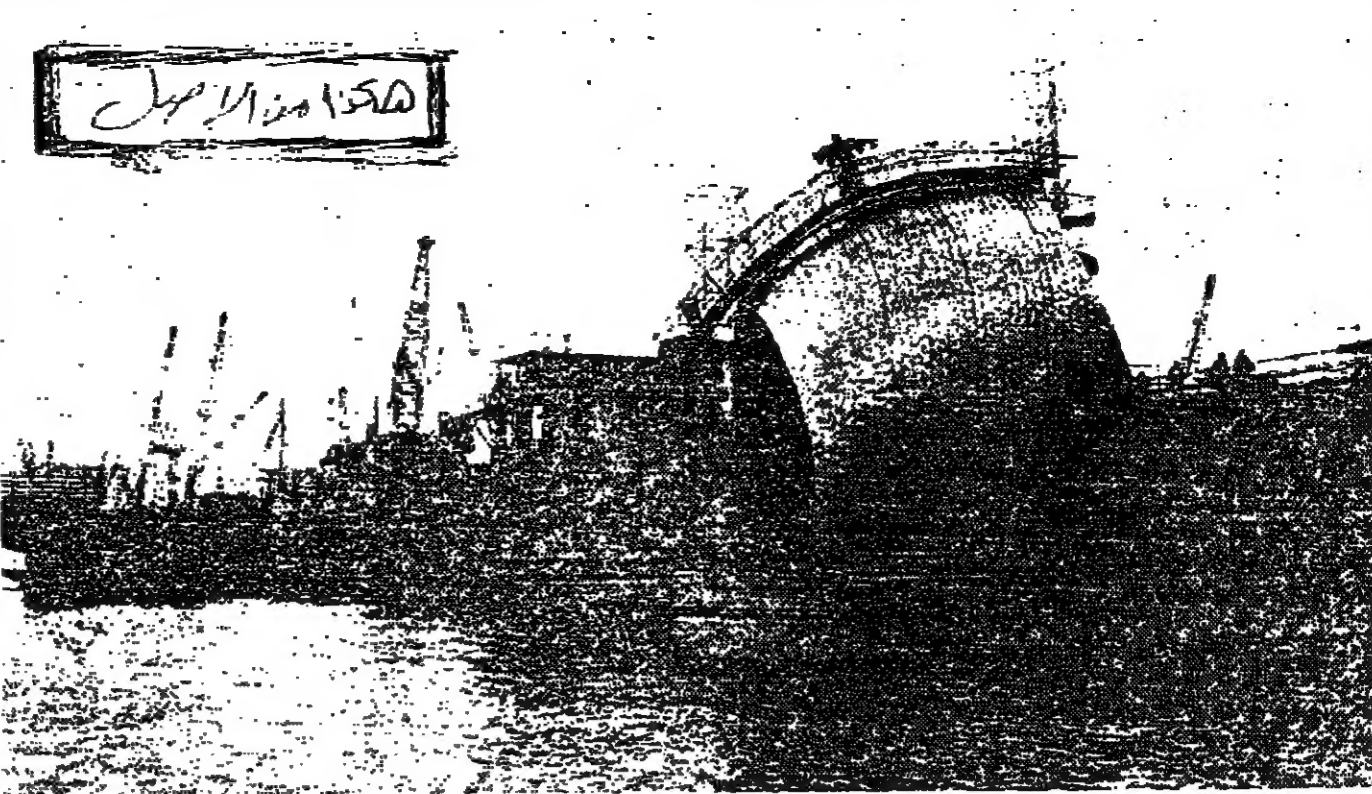
Health Services Correspondent. Mr. James Burkhill, aged 49, a former steel worker, was given a new heart at Harefield Hospital near Uxbridge yesterday. It was the fourth transplant operation carried out by Mr. Megdi Yacoub and his team. A few hours after the operation ended early yesterday, Mr. Burkhill, a widower with three children, from Mold, North Wales, was conscious and drinking tea. His new heart came from a man aged 31 who died of natural causes.

Mr. Yacoub's team will continue its programme at Harefield with at least four more transplants this year in spite of the announcement on Thursday that £100,000 of government money will go to Papworth Hospital, Cambridge, where Mr. Yacoub's team has just received a £300,000 donation from a charitable trust.

After advice from the transplantation advisory panel, ministers believe that scarce central fund money should be given to Papworth, which meets most of the criteria for heart transplant operations.

Part of the cost of heart transplants at Harefield is carried by the National Health Service. The extra cost is estimated to be between £5,000 and £7,000 for each transplant.

The latest patient, Mr. Burkhill, suffered five severe heart attacks and was forced to give up work in 1975.



Photograph by John Manning

## Woman took baby from hospital cot

Yvonne Jamieson, aged 21,

who was said at the Central Criminal Court yesterday to

have wanted a baby so badly that she snatched a newly-born girl from her cot by her mother's bedside, was placed on probation for three years by Judge Abdela, QC, on condition that she undergoes medical treatment.

Miss Jamieson admitted stealing the child from her mother, Mrs. Mervyn Cooper, on November 2 last year. After a national appeal the baby was found at Miss Jamieson's home in Cassland Road, Homerton,

London, 36 hours later and returned to her mother.

Mr. Simon Goldstein, for the prosecution, said Miss Jamieson wanted a child of her own but was told by doctors she was physically incapable of having any. Several times she imagined herself to be pregnant. Tests were later found to be misleading.

Miss Jamieson began a phantom pregnancy at the beginning of last year. She told all her friends and relatives she was pregnant. She told her boy friend she was pregnant and he

assumed responsibility, counsel added.

He added: "By artifice or subterfuge, Jamieson started to get larger. It did appear she was pregnant." At hospital, however, she was told she was not pregnant.

When Mrs. Cooper gave birth, she was put in the same ward where Miss Jamieson had visited a friend. When Mrs. Cooper woke early on November 2 to feed her baby she was gone.

Miss Jamieson returned to her home with the child and she told conflicting stories.

## A 15.5m high timber shell roof, part of London's flood barrier project, which was examined yesterday by a group of Italians trying to save Venice from flooding.

The timber shell roof was positioned recently on pier 9 of the barrier at Woolwich Reach.

The Greater London Council's flood defence scheme is expected to be completed by the end of 1982.

## Road crash damages of £300,000 for US woman

Mrs Judith Struss, of Seattle, United States, who was paralyzed from the chest down in a road accident, was awarded £300,000 damages in a settlement in the Court of Session in Edinburgh yesterday. It was the highest award made for personal injuries in Scotland.

Mrs Struss, who is in her early thirties, was a passenger in a car involved in a collision with another car on the Greenock-Glasgow road on January 17, 1978.

She sued Bearing Services, Ltd., of Helen Street Industrial Estate, Glasgow, for £400,000 as the owners of the other car and as employers of the driver, Mr. James Downie, who is now dead.

Mrs Struss, who is a patient at the Rusk Institute at New York University, received a record interim award of £25,000 damages in December, 1978.

Lord Murray was told yesterday that agreement had been reached on the amount.

## Appeal by men in corruption case

Three Dundee men who were each jailed for five years on Thursday for corruption were freed yesterday when appeals against their convictions and sentences were lodged.

Lord Cameron in chambers in the High Court in Edinburgh granted their application for interim liberation pending the hearing of their appeals this summer. They were ordered to find security of £250 each.

At 11.47 pm,  
on July 25th 1978,  
to every  
childless couple,  
hope was born.



At Oldham General Hospital. Lesley Brown gave birth to Louise Joy, the world's first 'test-tube' baby.

With this birth one of the major causes of infertility was removed. And hope born for thousands of women who thought they could never have a child.

Now, exclusively in The Observer, the doctors who made the birth possible tell you their own moving story of this medical breakthrough.

For the next 3 weeks, you can read of the 10 years of heart-breaking trial and error that led up to that joyous moment.

A Matter of Life. Told by scientist Robert Edwards and gynaecologist Patrick Steptoe.

It's a story that will move you, fascinate you, and make you, as it did its authors, thoughtful of its implications for us all.

THE OBSERVER

A Matter of Life. Starting on Sunday. Only in The Observer.







ivals for Republican presidential nomination in Illinois publicly challenge each other's views

## Mr Anderson steals the show in lively television debate in Chicago

By David Cross

Chicago, March 14

Two weeks ago Mr John Anderson, the liberal member of Congress from Illinois, was asked when he was expected to enter the race for the presidential nomination. At that time he said he was not planning to do so. But now, after a discussion took place in Chicago, he has changed his mind and is expected to enter the race.

Anderson's decision to enter the race was announced at a press conference in Chicago, but also of being

the star of the show. Since his unexpected successes in the Massachusetts and Vermont primaries 10 days ago, the silver-haired, earnest-looking Anderson has been perceived by his three remaining opponents as a possible winner of next Tuesday's Republican primary in Illinois.

Mr George Bush, the former director of the Central Intelligence Agency and once a front runner in the Republican race for the White House, set the scene for the 90-minute debate. Anderson's proposal to introduce a 50 cent (23p) a gallon consumer tax on alcohol as a way of reducing consumption.

He failed, however, to mention that Mr Anderson had also proposed a corresponding cut in social security taxes, a point the Member of Congress from Illinois was quick to challenge. "A half truth is as dangerous and deceptive as a lie," he snapped back.

There were similar criticisms for Mr Anderson's economic proposals from the other participants. Mr Ronald Reagan and Mr Philip Crane, also a member of the House of Representatives from Illinois.

The latter, who has failed to make any impact on voters during the early primaries, has no chance whatsoever of winning the nomination.

A Conservative to the right of Mr Reagan, he appears to have stayed in the race only because he finds the publicity useful for his political ambitions, and because he clearly wants to prevent Mr Anderson from securing the nomination at all costs, however unlikely this may be.

Indeed, in one of the sharpest exchanges during the debate, Mr Crane made it clear that if his colleague from Illinois was the party's choice for the presidency he would refuse to endorse him. He accused Mr Anderson of failing to live up to the standards of the Republican Party and suggested he ought to cross the floor to join the Democrats.

Under pressure from his colleagues and the chairman of the debate, Mr Anderson conceded that he would find it difficult to support either Mr Crane or Mr Reagan if either of them secured the nomination.

In one of the many light moments which characterized the occasion, Mr Reagan assumed a crestfallen posture. "Do you really find Ted Kennedy preferable to me?" he asked.

Mr Reagan, who appeared completely at ease now that he is widely expected to secure the nomination, cracked the best jokes. In a discussion about wage and price freezes, he pointed out that when Diocletian was Emperor of Rome a wage and price freeze had failed even though it was backed by the death penalty.

"I'm the only person here who was around at the time," he quipped when one of his colleagues pointed out that Rome was ancient history.

Last night's debate was far and away the most lively that have been held during the election campaign. Instead of replying individually to questions from reporters and members of the audience, the participants were actually able to challenge the views of their opponents in a direct dialogue.

Mr Anderson came over as the brightest of the four, Mr Reagan as the most affable, Mr Bush as the most earnest, and Mr Crane as the most aggressive.

William Rees-Mogg, page 14

## Mr Ford still keeps the nation guessing

By Michael Leppmann

York, March 14

Gerald Ford, the former president, is keeping the nation guessing about whether he will run for the nomination for the Republican Party's nomination for the job.

After dropping several hints yesterday that he probably would not run, he made a change of heart which indicated that he was still in the race. "I had a record you couldn't attack and make all sorts of promises," he said.

1980 the yardstick will be record against his record," he said.

It was a reference to his record as president. Carter, he attacked viciously in the week. Yesterday two men met at the White House, a meeting which was a but naturally frosty.

New York last night Mr Ford said that if he did run it would be "more as a sense of duty than anything else". He wanted to rescue the country from the "economic disaster" which was looming as a result of Mr Carter's policies, and pointed out that the opinion polls indicated that he could win in a landslide while Mr Ronald Reagan, the frontrunner for nomination, could not.

his speech at a dinner sponsored by a financial magazine, Mr Ford did not mention Mr Reagan by name but criticized his philosophy. He said it was an illusion that you could solve the problems of the modern world by nostalgically trying to recreate a departed golden era of the kind to which Mr Reagan constantly harkes back.

It is probable that Mr Ford has not yet decided whether he will enter the contest, but he has promised to announce a firm decision next week, after the Illinois primary. At a Washington breakfast yesterday he spoke with disappointment of people who had encouraged him to be a candidate but who were being chary of offering their support.

Some think that Mr Reagan has a long lead that it would be impossible to stop him in the remaining primaries. Liberals in the party who oppose Mr Reagan are for the first time beginning to view Mr John Anderson as the best alternative.

The New York Times reports that Mr John Anderson, who withdrew his name last week, has been acting as a spoiler for Mr Ford. He apparently dissuaded the Republican governors of Texas and Ohio from supporting the former president, although both had been expected to do so.

survey blames Vietnam foliant for deformities

By Douglas Aiton

bourne, March 14

A survey of Vietnam veterans believe they have been affected by the defoliant Agent Orange shows that at least 10 per cent have suffered medical children. This is three times the national average.

The preliminary figures compiled in a survey of West Australian veterans by Terry Spriggs, secretary of Vietnam Veterans Sub-branch of the Returned Services Union in Perth.

A most common defect is limb deformities such as feet, web feet and web fingers. These accounted for half the deformities. In normal conditions, two out of every 10,000 children have limb deformities.

number of children born with limb deformities is also among the children, complaints ranged from ear to testicular abnormalities.

one of the children had love to expel the Khmer Rouge from UN body

By Douglas Aiton

bourne, March 14

other attempt is expected week by the Soviet Union to expel the Khmer Rouge from the United Nations.

The meeting is likely to mark the opening of a long diplomatic offensive by the Soviet Union to expel the Khmer Rouge from the United Nations.

Mr Khieu Samphan and Mr Ieng Sary, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister in the ousted government, said recently that they expected Russia and Vietnam to make strenuous efforts to persuade other countries to join in voting them out of the United Nations.

The two leaders said they could count on the support of only 50 nations compared with 71 when the General Assembly voted for them to retain their seats last September.

aser threat to US satellites

By Henry Stanhope

Correspondent

the Russians were to arm the space platforms with high speed lasers they could destroy all United States military satellites within a matter of minutes.

General Keegan, former Chief of the United States Air Force, said in London this week that the Russians had recovered the Russian computer, supplied to them by military objectives, would help them develop a high level of accuracy they would

anwhile a breakthrough in laser research in the United States, which would enable the United States to intercept all Soviet intercontinental ballistic missiles by a system of protons launched from similar space stations, would be unfounded.

this research could be used in the United States could have in two or three years a system of revolution in the balance and lead to victory in the arms race.

was General Keegan who years ago, won inter-

national recognition by disclosing Soviet research in laser and particle beam weapons to a scientific community which at first was largely sceptical.

This week he has recaptured attention during a visit to Britain, by claiming that last year's seizure of hostages in the American Embassy in Tehran was financed and engineered by the Krombi.

He repeated these arguments yesterday at the Institute for the Study of Conflict, referring to the pouring into Iran from accounts in Swiss banks.

The Iranian crisis had helped to distract attention from the preparations for the invasion of Afghanistan, and one had only to study the rhetoric of the students occupying the Embassy to understand where their inspiration had come from.

One could count on only one source of inspiration—they were hard-core Marxist party members, under the control of an agency of the kind which did not exist in Iran outside the Communist Party.

Macabre story of Las Vegas death gamble

By David Cross

Los Angeles, March 14

Las Vegas is a city whose life blood is gambling. The operators of its casinos and betting shops have always prided themselves on being able to find someone willing to take a wage on just about anything.

But today the district attorney is investigating what police believe may be the sick and most gruesome game of chance imaginable. They call it "the death game".

Las Vegas detectives believe that several members of the staff of the Sunrise Hospital's intensive care unit ran regular lotteries to see who could come closest to pinpointing the time of death of critically ill patients.

Here the story takes its most horrifying and bizarre turn. Several employees have been suspended after reports that members of a small night shift group working in the intensive care unit of about six dangerously ill patients.

The nurse was nicknamed "Death's Angel" according to the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

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World View by Arrigo Levi

## Europe cannot pursue Middle East policy without armed power

Europe's initial reaction to the Afghan shock was one of confusion and passivity. Things have improved lately. But where there was no European foreign policy, there may now be too many policies, all of them threatening to come into collision with America's foreign policy, especially in the Middle East.

For the time being, Lord Carrington has been persuaded to postpone presentation of a Security Council resolution 242 at the Security Council until after May 26. The British (and European) amendment should have brought United Nations recognition of Palestinian rights to self-determination, if it accepted a Palestinian state. Britain and Europe will now wait at least until the date fixed at Camp David for definition of an Israeli-Egyptian plan on Palestinian autonomy. If no agreement is reached by that date, the intervention, Israel will be Europe will regain freedom of action.

In the meantime, President Giscard d'Estaing has been having the time of his life. Just repeating in a much more dramatic way, what other European governments had already said more than once, he has given the impression that Europe, under French guidance, may take an historic initiative, which might solve the Middle East problem and remove this stumbling block to Western-Arab and Western-Islamic co-operation. The Soviet threat to the oilfields would then recede.

In crisis of his undeniably French panache, M Giscard has carefully defined his commitment. He has spoken of Palestinian self-determination, not of a Palestinian state. He has said that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is a necessary partner in negotiations, not that it is the sole representative of the Palestinians. His actions still are a typical example of Europe's "good intentions" for domestic purposes, but lacking influence on world affairs.

But after May 26, Europe may take more concrete steps, at the United Nations or elsewhere, with the aim of setting up a new international forum to deal with the Middle East. This may not happen, if before May 26 the Americans succeed in persuading the Israelis to make enough concessions to allow Mr Sadat to postpone the intended deadline. But will the President, in election year, be able to exert enough pressure on Israel? His advisers do not believe (see the lamentable episode at the United Nations) that he can

take an open stand against Israel on any fundamental issue. Still, one cannot rule out the possibility that in a crisis the President may recall Mr Begin and President Sadat to Camp David. By putting himself, and his chances for a second term, at their mercy, he might turn his own weakness into strength. Could they afford to send him to it?

It is not yet certain that Europe's intended foray into Middle Eastern affairs will really take place. The threat itself of a European initiative may put some useful additional pressure upon Israel. But the fact that Mr Sadat cannot afford to be a less strenuous defender of Palestinian rights than President Giscard d'Estaing or Lord Carrington will make an agreement more difficult. Israeli spokesmen leave no doubt about their resentment of Europe's intervention. Israel's deep, traumatic mistrust of Europe is surfacing again.

So far, Europe's "almost initiative" is of doubtful effect. Looking to the future, Europe's weakness as its most honest enemy is glaring. Europe has no military power to use in an emergency, so that it cannot offer any credible guarantees to Israel in compensation for territorial concessions to be abandoned.

Also, Europe's apparent readiness to make important concessions to anti-Israeli and anti-Egyptian Arabs, without asking in exchange, as far as we know, for a long overdue recognition of Israel by the Arabs (as well as for some recognition of Egypt's great contribution to peace), renders almost all its potential influence on Israel. Europe projects an image of weakness. But the Arabs' best friend remains somebody who, as a friend and supporter of Israel, can influence its actions. America is still the obvious choice, on both accounts.

In order to act for peace in the world, power is needed, including military power. Europe has none, while the handful of European states seem to be of some relevance to world affairs only if compared to that political dwarf, Japan. Europe's actions show that it now recognises the need for power. It even has some useful ideas on how to use it: Herr Schmidt, the German Chancellor, has lately presented a respectable synthesis of a European foreign policy.

Europeans do not lack the means to produce power, but are they ready to make the necessary sacrifices? Or do they still prefer to trust their luck, and America?

Malaysia gives Mr Huang a wary welcome

By John Best

Kuala Lumpur, March 14

Mr Huang Hua, the Chinese Foreign Minister, arrived in Kuala Lumpur tonight for talks with Malaysian ministers.

The welcoming ceremony was kept deliberately at a low key. Officials have informed the Chinese Government that Mr Huang will not be allowed to attend the Chinese Union and other third world countries while here, as he did in Manila.

Mr Huang will meet Tunku Ahmad Rithaddeen, the Foreign Minister and Datuk Paul Leong, the Minister of Primary Industries, tomorrow. Sunday he will call on Datuk Hussein Onn, the Prime Minister.

Officials said that the continued support for the underground Malaysian Communist Party and the position of the nearly 250,000 Chinese in Malaysia would come up in the discussions as well as the Kampuchean question and the increasing super power involvement in the region.

Protesters ignore seal hunt off Newfoundland

By John Best

March 14

The annual seal hunt began today off the northern Newfoundland coast, and for a change there was no sign of protesters.

But the Greenpeace Foundation, which claims its members have succeeded in spraying 150 seals with green dye, making the pelts worthless.

Six Canadian and three Norwegian ships moved at dawn into the ice floes carrying the seal herd down from the north. In the next two to three weeks, they will be at work harvesting baby harp seals.

The quota this year, set by the Canadian Fisheries Department for the "harvest" of off Newfoundland and southern Labrador, is 180,000. Of these, 20,000 have been allocated to Norwegian ships and 57,000 to Canadian ships. A further 63,000 are allocated to land-based hunters.

A similar cull in the Gulf of St Lawrence has already been completed, with the full quota of 40,000 seals taken.

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## Czech police 'polite' to student

By Angus Cargill, aged 18, the British student deported from Czechoslovakia after attending a meeting in a Prague flat, spoke of his ordeal when he arrived back in London yesterday.

He turned up at his parents' London home at 6am without realising the incident had caused such a stir in Britain.



# Saturday Review

## The Last Days

by Sean Day-Lewis

Cecil Day-Lewis, lionized young poet of the 1930s and 1940s, was appointed Poet Laureate in succession to John Masefield at the beginning of 1968. His health was already frail and in early 1971 it was discovered he had terminal cancer of the pancreas. His second wife, the actress Jill Balcan, was told he had "a possible year" to live and advised that he should continue to live in hope. He was not told what was wrong with him. Three months later he was still on his feet endeavouring to lead his normal life.

On July 18 Cecil and Jill gave what was destined to be the last of the hundreds of public readings which they had offered together over twenty-one years. It was organized by Douglas Cleverdon at the Shakespeare Institute as part of his eighteenth Stratford-on-Avon Poetry Festival. It included a wide selection from Cecil's more recent work: "The Disabused", requiring much power from the reader; "Elegy for a Woman Unknown"; "A Picture by Renoir", four of the Irish poems from *The Whispering Roots*; and "The Exclusion" still unpublished. At the end Cecil looked so ill that Collette Clark, daughter of Sir Kenneth, suggested to Stuart Hampshire, Warden of Wadham, that he should be given a lift to the station. Cecil was consequently conveyed to his train in a funeral car, a choice about which he joked bravely.

With his family, Cecil embarked on his final visit to his native land on Saturday, August 7. They took the Mercedes and crossed the Irish Sea by way of Holyhead and Dun Laoghaire. The Old Head Hotel was once more safely reached. Cecil enjoyed the place as he always had done, though his walks were much restricted and his swimming and diving days were over. His worst moment was when he was sitting in the front of his stationery and safely parked car, and it was run into by an ill-controlled horse and cart. The beautiful but accident-prone Mercedes had to be taken into Castlebar for a new windscreen and other repairs.

From Old Head, Cecil wrote to Billie Curran. (Their love affair during his Devon period, 1938-50, is reflected in several poems and his last detective novel, *Nicholas Blake's The Private Wound*).

I hope my lunch invitation has not gone astray, and that I didn't annoy you by my crazy suggestion that you might care to stay in Greenwich. At any rate to come to London—I don't know how long I have to live and it would be nice to see you before I am trundled off to the tomb. . . . We'll go to a nice dark restaurant near Chitto and Windus, where nobody will notice a fat old woman or a man who resembles a human skeleton.

The journey back to England began on August 30. Jill driving through Enniscorthy, to Wickford, a farcical, to the "land of milk and honey" of Cecil's blissful childhood summers, before catching the boat at Rosslare.

In London, Cecil continued to go to his office every other week, showing the determination of a man who still hoped that if he behaved as though nothing was wrong his illness might tire of the struggle against him and go away. Writing to Charles Causley about the 1971 meeting of the Queen's Gold Medal committee, he did not even mention his health.

On October 26 he dined with the Club and next evening Jill drove him in her new Renault to give a recital at Soke Pages in Buckinghamshire, the scene of Thomas Gray's "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard". It was a bad night. The side effects of his medicines and diseases were making it more difficult for him to control either his temper or his bowels, though he still contrived to keep such problems from everybody but Jill.

On the thirty-first Stephen and Natasha Spender brought W. H. Auden to lunch at 6 Crooms Hill. Cecil noted that Wystan now had a very limited stock of jokes and conversational gambits, which he repeated over and over again, though the pedagogical finger was jabbed as vigorously as

ever. Wystan guessed at a first glance that Cecil had cancer and that this would probably be the last time he would ever see his old friend and colleague.

On November 4 the Queen's Gold Medal committee met as planned at L'Epicure and afterwards in the Chatterbox room. Cecil had some difficulty in gaining the prize for Stephen Spender, but after a rear-guard action by Philip Larkin it was eventually decided to go ahead with the Spender recommendation, on the strength of his latest book *The Generous Days*, and, to a considerable extent, in recognition of his past work.

The news that Cecil had cancer now spread, and some generous gestures resulted. The poet Paul Dehn, who had self-died of cancer five years later, but who was then being well-rewarded as a cinema screenplay writer, sent a cheque for £200 as an act of homage. With Jim Rose, then running the Westminster Press, Elizabeth Jane Howard organized a fund to which Cecil's friends contributed £1,200 to give him extra comforts during his last months. Kenneth Clark brought a first edition of Coleridge, "pretending that he was having to dispose of his library at Saltwood Castle before moving into the lodge."

His children by his second marriage also did him well that December. Tamasin was offered a place at King's College, Cambridge, one of the first of girls undergraduates to invade that institution. Daniel, already showing signs of having inherited the acting talent of his parents, was an excellent Florizel in the Bedales production of Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale*. Cecil, who had taken the same part in that Sherborne production 48 years before when he fell in love with his Perdita, watched with approval. On the night of the performance he was black and blue with bruises sustained when he had lost his footing and fallen down some stairs.

It was surprising that he did not have more such falls, for he had become a six foot tall bundle of skin and bones, and it was well-power that kept him going about his business as 1971 turned to 1972. I remember giving him lunch, for a change, at a restaurant in St Martin's Lane, near his office, just before Christmas. It was an expensive establishment but, as a sick man, it seemed impossibly full. Cecil's chair, wherever he moved it, had a fatal attraction for the distracted waiters and he was repeatedly bumped. He remained patient and uncomplaining, relishing his mineral water as though it was best claret. He was decidedly pleased at the news that his second son Nicholas had found the courage to break free from the unsatisfactory marriage that he had begun with such ceremony at the nearby St Martin-in-the-Field church 14 years before. Cecil and I parted in the street outside. I looked back and saw him striding across the road wearing his dashing, wide-brimmed hat. It was not the gait of an old man, much less a sick one; it seemed impossible that he would soon be snatched away, and all his panache and presence with him.

On January 14, 1972, he was writing to Mollie Patterson, the secretary of the Royal Society of Literature, about the candidates then being proposed for the honour of Companion of Literature. I've tried to ring you twice but you're evidently enjoying a well-earned holiday, and hope to attend on January 24, and will propose August Wilson—as a quid pro quo for supporting Leslie Hart-

ley, whom I don't really think up to it. David Cecil certainly. My health being so up and down, if I'm bawled at the last moment I'll ring you, so can you take this scrawl as assenting to all those parties.

In the event Cecil did get to the RSL Council meeting on the twenty-fourth, proposing Wilson for a Companionship of Literature after Lord Birkenhead put up Lord David Cecil and Robert Speaight spoke for L. P. Hartley. Cecil was clearly very ill and had to be placed at a corner of the table next to the electric fire so that he could keep warm. That he attended at all was proof of his extreme devotion to the Society of which he had been a Fellow for nearly 30 years.

Cecil had recorded a 25-minute broadcast of his own poetry transmitted by Radio 3 on New Year's Day. This heralded a three-month period during which he did as much broadcasting as at any time of his life.

By far his biggest undertaking was a series of six poetry programmes for BBC Television, transmitted after his death as *A Lasting Joy*. This had been instigated by Norman Swallow, a Greenwich friend and neighbour, then head of arts features. The majority channel had never been used for the uncompromising dissemination of poetry. "We three had had many animated but often inconclusive discussions as to how one could present poetry on television, and even if one could do so at all," Jill wrote in her foreword to the Allen and Unwin anthology made from the series. Cecil was nevertheless drawn to the idea of "using the latest means of communication to put over the oldest of the arts" and eventually Swallow, knowing that Cecil was very ill but not knowing he was dying of cancer, had taken the "enormous risk" of commissioning the series.

But it was obvious that Cecil was no longer well enough to be transported to the BBC Television Centre in West London. Swallow decided that the filming, thus, somehow, be managed at 6 Crooms Hill and it was explained to Cecil that there had been an artistic decision that his home atmosphere would provide a necessary intimacy not possible with a studio set. The first-floor sitting-room, so lovingly described in Nicholas Blake's *The Horn of Descent* (1961), was chosen for the shooting. A second difficulty, that could not have been foreseen, was that recording coincided with a miners' strike, a fuel emergency and power cuts. The BBC had to provide a gener-

ator. Recording began on January 15 with Swallow himself as director. Cecil managed his introduction and his readings, but was so exhausted when the first programme was completed that morning that he had to go up and down, if I'm bawled at the last moment I'll ring you, so can you take this scrawl as assenting to all those parties.

His second son by his first marriage, Nicholas, came from South Africa to see him in March, something of a stranger from another world. "On my last visit to England I think we had completely lost touch," Nick recalled. "He listened to me politely, but I don't think I got through to him at all. And when I finally left, I said goodbye to him in his chair. He had visitors (Jan and Trekkie Parsons) and was already talking to them again, without a glance in my direction, before I reached the door of his study."

I had come to collect Nick and drive him to London Airport. I witnessed this scene and hoped very much he had not noticed Cecil's apparent indifference. It was doubtless part of Cecil's scheme for continuing his energy and avoiding distressing scenes, for not wasting what little time he had on futile regrets. His special friends, among whom Ian and Trekkie Parsons were numbered, had now become all-important to him. He would light up with their presence and, more or less, collapse exhausted on their departure.

Another visitor that month was Elizabeth Jane Howard, now Mrs Kingsley Amis, who could feel the almost unbearable atmosphere of jagged tension which then permeated what had become a rather dark house. The strain on Jill would have been huge even if she had been a physically powerful trained nurse, without emotional involvement. As it was, she had to watch the person she loved more than all the world decline day by day; she had to maintain the pretence of a better future, and she had to cope with the physical business of dealing with a patient who could do less and less for himself. Jill had not slept a whole night through for months. At times they both became exasperated, as much as anything with their own lack of physical strength.

When Tamasin or Daniel were about life for them was bleak in the extreme. I can remember leaving the house at

this time with the feeling of having been caught in a vice, so powerfully did the troubled atmosphere press down on the visitor. Thanks to good fortune and her own generosity Jane was able to help.

Jill had landed a part in an Associated Television drama series, *The Straws Family*, which meant a week of recording at Elstree studio in Hertfordshire. Jane and Kingsley Amis were living in a large eighteenth-century house at nearby Hadley Common and could provide both a ground-floor room, and the nurse presently looking after Jane's invalid mother. Cecil, who dreaded the idea of going into hospital while Jill was filming, happily agreed to the idea of a week's "holiday" in the Amis establishment.

Other friends continued to call. There was a visit from William Plomer, who called on April 4 and three days later wrote to Rupert Hart-Davis: "I saw poor Cecil on Tuesday, quite feeble, quite clear in the head, modestly courageous."

On Thursday, April 6, a sunny day, Cecil was helped out of his Crooms Hill home and driven by Jill with Tamasin and Daniel to Lemmings, the Amis home above High Barnet on the northern outskirts of London. All his life the rootless man in Cecil had loved changes of scene, had felt renewed by a change of house as by a change of love. Now the magic worked once more. Cecil at once "professed himself delighted with the whole set up", as Jane has written. His room had a bathroom and a sheltered courtyard attached, at the east end of the elegant house. Kingsley Amis and Cecil were not political allies but found they had more in common than they suspected, and became increasingly attached to one another. Each morning Kingsley would ask for Cecil's recorded music order. He would choose some "grand" Chopin, or some "sappy" Handel, and he fell in with the preposterous and self-denying Amis dictum that the main achievement of J. S. Bach was in fathering C. F. E. Bach. He took enormous pleasure in the simplest things: a bunch of flowers, a toasted bun, a new thriller, ice cream,

the bird-table outside his window, sweet-smelling soap. One day he was able to sit in the courtyard and look at the tree as they began to leaf and flower, and once he went for a ride round the extensive garden in the electric chair belonging to Jane's mother, responding with enthusiasm to both the vehicle and the place.

After a week Jane asked Cecil if he would like to stay until he felt "really better". "I would like to stay for months, and I am very anxious to give Jill a proper rest," he replied. Jill gratefully agreed that they should stay for as many weeks as there were, and, on Cecil's orders, went out to buy him a notebook so that he could thank the household with a poem. After two days he reported, "It is very difficult to work on a quarter of a cylinder." Ten days later his last poem, "At Lemmings", was completed.

*Round me all is amenity, a bloom of Magnolia uttering its requiems, A climate of acceptance. Very I accept my weakness with my friends' Good natures sweetening every day my sick room.*

At this time Cecil was also signing copies of his new birthday hymn for Shakespeare, and writing the occasional postcard, one of them to the autobiographer James Gibson, commending him on his work with *Let the Poor Choose* (Harrap, 1973), in which each of the 44 contributing poets was allowed to choose two of his own poems. "May I suggest as my two poems the last sonnet of *O Dreams, O Destinations* (*Words Over All*, 1943), and 'On Not Saying Everything' (*The Room*, 1965)." Cecil had written to him. "The sonnet because, though I wrote it 30 years ago, it still stands up and says something I feel to be truthful about the human condition." On Not Saying Everything, because I believe so strongly in the doctrine of limitations it speaks for—the everything, a tree, a poem, a human relationship lives and thrives by the limits imposed on it.

A steady stream of visitors made the journey to Hadley Common: Norah Smallwood, his Chato friend and colleague for so many years; writers such as Philip Larkin and V. S. Pritchett; Peggy Ashcroft, the great actress with whom he had performed in so many recitals; the lawyer Jeremy Hutchinson ("very funny with his out being too noisy") and the academic Noel Annan; and

others with less resplendent names though equally earnest and gave him new lease of life, before departure and the exhaustion. He enjoyed his sixty-eight day on the twenty opening each of the piled on his bed with most gallantly (perhaps simply true).

He must have drawn lessons from his physical and increasingly severe of pain but he did not them. Maybe he felt discuss the matter. It was time to start. I would be altogether too full for them both, and could not discuss it with would be wrong to do anybody else.

Jill telephoned me 18 saying that Cecil was deeply much weaker, and the nurse had said it was time to start about funeral arrangements. Two days later he visited from his agent, and with less than a day, arrived soaked in the die of a thunderstorm, out to Lemmings on May 21. I kept a diary of oppressive last days.

Jill meets me. I Renault at High Barnet. She is outwardly in seems really cour expressed worry that I distressed by appearance. She says not been able to shave for two days. On Thurs enjoyed her reading for *Mill on the Floss*, but day did not take in much Jane read from *Pride and Prejudice*. Re is off now. He is more or less dead when I enter the room. Ursula Vaughan Williams is here helping me to help in turning him a some reason hold my breath to detach myself from skeletal legs and hips cannot be part of the turning he faces his chest as if he has an himself to die like an old comb.

"I am left alone in the with him. He murmurs a self. 'This is all right for three days, but how is Lord, how long. . . . This mean that he still hopes better, or that he wants quickly. . . . After lunch about V. S. Pritchett's night Oil, though I think because Ursula Vaughan Williams is reading it to him. He starts talking of Pritchett's remarkable address nothing else quite like it says he is keen to shut the moon of my dear round haire and paper shade hanging from the ing. 'It is like a moon, says, but is unable to get with the thought. He again. 'It is like a moon, I suggest. . . . This is like a moon, he with a smile, his lips qu-

Continued on opposite



Jay M. 150



















## Travel

## Two views of the new Zimbabwe

and have been California in the past. But this Salisbury, capital of the black-ruled country in

similarity between the capital of Zimbabwe and American west coast with the touchdown of the first British Airjet to fly the flag from on to Salisbury since sanctions were imposed 14 years ago.

taxed in front of the airport terminal a helicopter swooped over in salute—this was just the general election that Mr Robert Mugabe his

peace now a reality in a hope, British people are already up for aircraft seats and

top of this, many people in Zimbabwe can now come to a visit, and once there, some of the country that

will be some months before new government can be delivered during the election

From what I heard in Salisbury and subsequently in London, Mr David Smith, Minister of Trade and Industry in the new government, is being told that it will take two to three months before the country's game parks and

It will be at least the winter of this year before British tour operators will be prepared to market package holidays on any scale.

Zimbabwean tourist literature adequately describes the country's undeniable beauties but effectively ignores the war and its effects.

Thus, should you turn to the Salisbury Publicity Association's colourful brochure, Rhodesia's capital: Salisbury, there is a come-hither section about Lake

It is described as Salisbury's "water playground". The lake also happens to be an outlet for the capital's sewage and bathes risk bilharzia, particularly nasty water-borne disease.

That may rank as pretty run-of-the-mill as reticence goes in sub-tropical tourist literature, although the claim that "fishing here is excellent, particularly for bream and tiger fish", is true.

It is also true, however, that the naturalists who masterminded this "Operation Noah". More than 6,000 animals, including 1,866 impala, but only one bush baby, were sent packing to higher ground on what are now Fothergill Island and the neighbouring Sparling Island.

Fothergill Island is owned by Rob Fynn, who holds a civil engineering degree from Bristol University. He runs it for people to get close to nature



Elephants in the long grass on the shores of Lake Kariba.

One beauty spot that many visitors to the new Zimbabwe will make for is Lake Kariba, on the border with Zambia. It was built in the late 50s—mainly for a hydro-electricity scheme providing power to both countries.

Rupert Fothergill was one of the naturalists who masterminded this "Operation Noah". More than 6,000 animals, including 1,866 impala, but only one bush baby, were sent packing to higher ground on what are now Fothergill Island and the neighbouring Sparling Island.

Fothergill Island is owned by Rob Fynn, who holds a civil engineering degree from Bristol University. He runs it for people to get close to nature

without intruding. Visitors stay in traditional, thatched huts (named after the displaced local tribespeople), with no electricity and only a hurricane lamp for light.

Morning comes early in these parts. You are within the Tropic of Capricorn and only 800 miles south of the equator. Leave your alarm clock at home and let the fish eagles and gullies wake you. Dawn over the lake, with its Zambezi

escarpment backdrop, is an experience you should not miss (along with dawn in the rain forest at Victoria Falls).

As the day begins the smell of smoked food drifts over you from the nearby village, where the island's 100 workers live. Breakfast is taken in Rob Fynn's first island building, an enormous wood and thatch structure with the restaurant downstairs and the bar/observation area above.

Help yourself to fruit, fish

and cereals followed by bacon and eggs. Eat well; with all the walking to be done, your energy will soon be sapped if you do not.

For your ZRS35 (£22.00) daily charge (lake view hut \$45) you get three meals a day and unlimited game viewing safaris by boat. Land Rover and on foot, all accompanied by Fynn or one of his trained guides.

Elephants are everywhere and are particularly visible in the dry season when they go down to the lake shore for water. Buffalo should be approached with caution, but with luck you can get within 30-40 yards.

Hippopotamuses take a great delight in submerging 10 feet from the water's surface. Unless the hippo is in the water, it is not safe to approach. Keep cameras out of the sun—the temperature can reach 100°F.

Fothergill Island is a photographer's paradise. Take lots of film and store it in a cool place, such as a cool box. Do not try to shoot wildlife pictures with anything under a 200mm lens (I used a 300mm and it was too short). A 500mm lens would be ideal.

Exposure levels for colour use indicated meter reading (watch shadows from trees in the bush), but black and white needs 1-2 stops extra with reduced development.

A fixed lens camera is really useless. The animals are wild and you will not get close enough for a decent image. Protect the camera from water and sand with a little smear of Vaseline round the openings. Keep cameras out of the sun—the temperature can reach 100°F.

Brian Harris

## Gardening

## Fragrant days

Except when the spirit moves us, few of us, I suppose, deliberately embark on a special planting programme for winter colour, for cut flowers; devoted flower arrangers undoubtedly do, but they do not always make their gardens more attractive by so doing.

I have seen gardens virtually ruined from an aesthetic point of view when the lady (or gentleman) of the house has turned it over into a production factory for their

material. But I think a little conscious planning to provide fragrance would greatly enhance the pleasure the garden gives us. Visual appeal need not suffer because there are plenty of

colourful scented plants. True, many of the most powerfully fragrant plants are not flamboyantly coloured but, because they rely on their fragrance to attract pollinating insects. Nature certainly did not include fragrance in the evolutionary programme merely for the gratification of the genus Homo.

Many plants emit, to us, smells that are unpleasant, even revolting; but with the sweet scented ones, we can catch along with the insects, particularly the night flying moths which can sniff out a plant hundreds of yards away.

For the outlay of a pound or so one can buy seed of mignonette which one hardly ever sees these days. Mignonette (Marrubium bicolor) is a Virginian stock (Malcolmia maritima), sweet alyssum, tobacco plant (Nicotiana glauca) and of course sweet peas.

Some modern varieties of sweet pea have little scent but many are very fragrant. I notice that Unwin's four novelties for this year are all described as scented. "Diamond Wedding", their white novelty, is described as sweetly scented; "Shells Macqueron" salmon orange, as nicely scented; "Nancy Colledge", cerise-pink, and "Pioneers" salmon pink, as sweetly scented.

All the 40 varieties they offer are described as scented in varying degrees: two, "Old Times", cream, flushed blue, and "Evensong", lilac and blue, are described as exceptionally sweetly scented, and seven others as very sweetly scented. Their "Super scented Old Fashioned" mixture has small flowers but is powerfully fragrant.

It would be nice to be able to record that the majority of modern roses have strong fragrance. But while many do, others have little or none. The tendency, however, is for scent to be more often than not a characteristic of new roses.

But if it is scent we want there are many old rose varieties with powerful fragrance. My favourite rose, the climbing "Zéphirine Drouhin", the earliest to flower, double, carmine, is powerfully fragrant. The floribunda roses are not generally very fragrant although some do have scent—the white "Iceberg", "Margaret Merril", bluish pink and a powerful scent, the lilac "Harry Edland", "Dearest", pink, these are the varieties to go for if you want scent in the garden.

Among the hybrid tea roses, of course, there are many more fragrant varieties. Indeed it is possible to plant quite a large rose garden entirely with scented hybrid tea roses. We have "Diamond Jubilee", yellow, "Elizabeth Harkness", red, "Fragrant Cloud", scarlet, "Josephine Bruce", crimson, and "Northern Lights", cream,

flushed red—all good garden roses with plenty of fragrance. Unfortunately the herbaceous plants we grow are not very fragrant. Most are colourful, so I suppose they rely on this attribute to attract the insects. But phloxes are both colourful and scented. Lily of the Valley has a lovely fragrance, as do the various evening primroses, varieties of Oenothera.

We do better really with the shrubs. If we have acid soil the azaleas in the Ghent and Occidentale range of hybrids are splendidly fragrant, especially on a warm humid evening. The mock oranges, varieties of Philadelphus, are powerfully scented—any and all. Lilacs, too, give us fragrance in the early summer.

So far I have been thinking of plants that give off their fragrance to scent the air—usually best in the evening, although nobody has explained why this should be. But there are many plants whose leaves emit fascinating scents when crushed.

True, some lily rue and wormwood emit a noisome smell. But lavender we should have in every garden. The large bushy "Grappenhall" will make a dividing hedge three feet or more high and give you plenty of dried lavender flowers for sachets and pot-pourris. Or equally generous with flowers, we have the dwarf "Twickle Purple".

But to me the most exquisite plant with scented foliage is the lemon-scented verbena, Aloysia citrodora. This shrub is not quite reliably hardy. It has survived against the south facing wall of houses in southern England and with the protection of a glass frame farther south. But cuttings root so easily that we can always carry over plants from one year to the next.

In the past we have had two kinds of grass seed mixture—one type consisting only of fine lawn grasses and the other containing rye grass in varying amounts. Rye grass is a strong, quick growing, coarse grass that will stand up to hard wear. It is also cheap but requires cutting more frequently than the fine lawn grasses.

The seeds are large and I have a theory that when a mixture contains rye grass seed the birds spot it at once and, while feasting on it, pick up the small seeds as well. I know that nowadays most grass seeds are treated with a bird repellent, but I am not sure that the birds always know this and I wonder if it is always effective.

If the mixture is all small seeded they do not seem to bother to steal it. I may be wrong but that at least was the conclusion I came to after sowing various mixtures at Hurst more some years ago.

Anyway, after much research a new dwarf fine-leaved strain of rye grass is being sold from Holland and is being sold here under the name "Hunter". It really is dwarf and slow growing, also the seeds are smaller than the old rye grass. The distributors claim that we can now have a lovely, dark green lawn using only "Hunter" and that it does not "yellow" as do the older rye grass strains in summer. It has good resistance to wear and tear and is winter hardy.

The seed is available in garden shops and garden centres but in case of difficulty write to: Hurst Garden Co., Cooper Taber Ltd, Walsham, Essex CM8 2DX.

It is by the quality of their cheap wines that a shipper or a merchant should be appraised. Here are twelve recommendations for the sort of wines those who found them drink regularly themselves, or use as the "mouthwash" to prepare the palate for something important, because then both the fine wine and the modest bottle invariably taste better.

One novelty is the white Egrí Leányka, from the region around the delightful Hungarian town of Eger, famous for its red Bull's Blood. The word Leányka, which is the name of the particular grape, means "maiden". Two centuries ago a London wine auction included some Hungarian wine that was the same that can be drunk today.

It has a watery, flowery bouquet, definite weight, plus some fullness, and finishes dry, with the sort of minerally freshness you get after sucking a pebble.

Shippers R. & C. Vianez have a very nice bottle age after bringing it over and this additional substance makes it multi-purpose, for aperitifs or with many dishes. Just coming out to the market, Leányka costs about £2 from John Allen & Bodegas, 27, 1977, Vianez, Hereford, and, soon, from branches of Safeway in the south.

A new red from Chile has been found by Matthew Clark, pioneer of other South American wines. The 1977, Vianez, Hereford, and, soon, from branches of Safeway in the south.

Bright, pinky-red, it has the definite, supple aroma of many Cabernets, plus a fruity flavour and an unfolding sweetness—very attractive such wine as I have tasted from ungrated sugar usually have this "bloomy" gentle style, but there also seems to be the immediate mouth-filling appeal that is characteristic of the wine.

This is a wine that one does not tire of drinking. It is available in London from £2.29 Adams of Southwold, Suffolk, for £2.32 and W. S. Sanderson, Hope & Anchor, Brewery, Morphet, have it in their Morphet shops for £2.10.

"Alamosa" extra quality 1974 Rioja. This has a languorous bouquet, is less tough in flavour than some red Riojas and, as it appears to have been quite a while in wood before bottling, is now probably at its peak. Very pleasant with rather plain food, but don't leave it open overnight as the fragrance may fade (£2.35 from Vianez, Hereford, and, soon, from branches of Safeway in the south).

Portuguese reds—often the "consumo" or table wine of the port shippers—are usually good with traditional British dishes, as they have a warmth and goodness that drinkers in cold climates enjoy.

Rawlings Voigt have shipped two from the Dão region: the 1973 Grão Vasco Garrafeira is undulatingly pleasant, lightly assertive, easy drinking (£2.46 from Edward Sheldon, Southampton).

The 1972 Dão Reserva is a bigger, close-packed wine, evocative of the smoky mountain vineyards and with the amiable style and slightly "rusty" and flavour that con-

veys warmth and firmness (£2.69 from the Carrefour Hypermarket, Bristol, who also have the Garrafeira for £2.37). Open both a few hours before drinking; they can also remain, corked up, once opened, for a day or more.

Independent merchants are usually proud of their basic wines. Recently-established Rayner Hanson & Clarke, whose customers are often budget-conscious but who want wines to make an impression both for business and social occasions, have a remarkable red vin de table—smelling sunnily of south-west France, generous in taste, and clean-cut (£1.75 from Rayner Hanson & Clarke, 36 Kensington Church Street, W8).

City of London merchants Russell & McIver ship a crisp white, Cuvée de Beuchène, from one of their Loire suppliers that has the "green" charm and steely freshness of the Sauvignon grape that is probably in it.

Their Gresham Vin Rouge is bright red, fruity, with a substantial after-taste. (Both cost £1.44 the 70 cl. bottle, or £1.92 the litre, from Russell & McIver, The Rectory, St Mary-at-Elm, EC3).

Avery's of Bristol are famous for their individuality and perception—their labels carry the assurance of a definite house style. They have the skill to find and bottle wines that customers have enjoyed for many years. (It should be remembered that although more and more wines are being bottled in their country of origin, the significance of an AC on labels can refer only to region and method of production—it cannot guarantee quality.) Avery's red and white modestly named "Clochemerle" (each £1.19) are good value: the straw-toned white is robust, good as an aperitif or with first courses and salads, the red warmly fragrant and buxom in style.

Avery's "Ronsac" has a pronounced bouquet, reminiscent to me of new wood and herbs, a lightness and balance that makes it a very good petit vin. Indeed, if you pour it in a decanter, those who couldn't see the label might ascribe to it a distinguished name (and a far higher price). Ronsac costs £2.25 from Avery's, Park Street, Bristol.

Corney & Barrow, sometimes described as "the wine merchants' wine merchant" because of their wonderful reserves, celebrate their 200th birthday this year. In their new premises, an elegant 18th century house at 12 Helmer Row, EC1, they preserve all the finest traditions of the British wine trade and demonstrate that the cachet of their label is never bestowed on an indifferent bottle.

Their red Vin de Table, bottled by Lebeque, is appealing, soft, gently fruity (£1.84). The red "Beaujeu" from Loran is an amiable, cosy drink with an enticing back-taste (£1.95). They also have a 1976 Côte de Provence VDQS rose that is far more interesting than many pink wines.

This, from Les Maîtres Vignerons de la Presqu'île de St Tropez, is a definite, shimmering dog rose pink with a hint of tawny at its heart, it has an uncomplicated southern smell of warmth and sunbaked earth, a full style, easy to appreciate but always well-balanced, and a firm dry finish (in a 74cl bottle, it costs £2.23).

Patience Vandyke Price

## PARLIAMENT, March 14, 1980

## Even a compromise amendment fails to rescue Abortion Bill

House of Commons  
The fourth day of the report stage of the Abortion (Amendment) Bill ended with MPs in the midst of a series of divisions. The report stage was adjourned until July 4, the last Friday in the Commons for private members' legislation. When debate resumed, Mr Samuel Sikkin (Lewisham, Deptford, Lab) moved an amendment which, he said, might be the last possible chance of a compromise on the controversial issue.

It returned to the controversy over the adjective "substantially" which had, by a majority of three votes, been retained in the criteria for when a woman would have to observe in deciding whether or not to terminate a pregnancy.

A doctrine would be required to consider whether the woman's life or of serious injury to her physical and mental health would be substantially greater than if the pregnancy was terminated.

Mr Sikkin said his amendment would mitigate against the word "substantially". The amendment would make it clear that "substantially" greater risk would still remain binding in law if the only consideration was of the statistical probability applicable to pregnancies generally.

But if there was some other factor—something the doctor had found on examination above or, in the case of the statistical argument, then the word "substantially" would be excluded from consideration.

Mr Sikkin said that if a woman suffering from relatively high blood pressure, which was not uncommon in pregnancy, and it was necessary to have an abortion at 16 weeks a doctor would be hard put to say categorically that the woman's health was "substantially" at risk yet the extent of the blood pressure not having been increased the risk.

Mr David Evans (Norwich, North, Lab) said he was convinced that unless the amendment was carried the medical profession would be extremely cautious.

Mr Charles Morrison (Devizes, C) said Mr Sikkin had done the House a considerable favour. As a result of the word "substantially" being left in, there was continuing opposition to the Bill. The vast majority of people would like to see the Bill brought to a conclusion on the basis simply of lowering the limit on when an abortion to 24 weeks and leaving it at that.

Mrs Jill Knight (Birmingham, Edgbaston, C) said the House had decided after lengthy debate on a great deal of wailing up that the word "substantially" be included in the Bill. They had to be clear. She therefore, opposed the amendment.

There were shouts of protest and points of order when after the closing of the debate Mr William Thomas (Buckingham, C) moved the closure. The motion was rejected by 147 votes to 140—majority against the closure.

Continuing the debate Mr John Morris, chief Opposition spokesman in legal affairs (Aberdeen, Lab) said that Mrs Knight's intolerant attitude had jeopardised the Bill. The House was entitled to have the advice of a law officer on this matter so that they did not

send out legislation which was not comprehensible, fair and just, and did not put the medical profession into grave difficulty. Mr Peter Archer, an Opposition spokesman on legal affairs (Warwick, West, Lab) said those who were sponsoring the Bill had already taken to the House irrespective of the arguments.

Sir Bernard Braine (South East Essex, C) said it was unfair to say that the sponsors had been prepared to sacrifice a substantial part of the Bill in order to protect the 24-week which had already been established. The sponsors had been prepared to sacrifice a substantial part of the Bill in order to protect the 24-week which had already been established.

Mr Archer said that if ever sponsors deserved to lose their Bill it was the sponsors of this Bill after the way they had behaved. (Cheers)

Dr Miller said the sponsors of the Bill had been too greedy and had been taken to the almost intractable attitude that because they did not hear another view but their own, they believed they had more support than they had. He said that the Bill would increase abortions.

Sir George Young, Under Secretary for Health and Social Security (Leamington, C) said the amendment sought to make clear the intention that the statistical argument could not be employed. He said that would meet the concern of the medical profession over the word "substantially".

If the amendment was carried, the intention of the House would be clear and the Bill would not be substantially amended. Mr Ian Mikardo (Tower Hamlets, Bethnal Green and Bow, Lab) said he supported the amendment. He said that it was a compromise solution reached, because it would be to one another's advantage. He said that it was a compromise solution reached, because it would be to one another's advantage.

## Parental rights on sex education

House of Lords  
Parents had a right to know what schools proposed to do over sex education and to withdraw their children if they felt it would be harmful, Viscount Ingleby (Ind) said when moving a new clause which proposed to make it a duty of parents to give notice to parents or guardians of children giving notice when sex education was being given.

After receiving the information a parent who wished to withdraw his child from a proposed or existing course of sex education would be able to do so.

He said there were some books circulating which dealt with sex in a neutral way. Others like *My Happiness* included sexually attractive to adults. There were pressure groups like Gay Teachers who were seeking to get sex education in schools in order to promote their teaching that homosexuality was both natural and normal.

I feel in these circumstances (he said) that parents have a right to know what is proposed and to withdraw their children if they feel it is going to be harmful.

Lord Wells-Pestell (Lab), for the Opposition, said he was not sure a new clause would deal with the situation. It said nothing at all, and could do any harm about the competence of the headmaster to prepare sex education.

There had to be a common syllabus which was approved by people who were competent to be able to pass judgement on the validity of the syllabus.

Lord Monson (Ind) said he had never been a supporter of Mrs Mary Whitehouse or Lord Long-

ford on such matters and he was not one who believed family planning clinics and associations were clandestine agents of Soviet subversion.

But he had enormous sympathy with the new clause because it extended the area of parental choice. There was no doubt there existed within the realm of sex education a small circle crusading to encourage young people to have sex experiments as early as possible and younger age.

## Request for swift action on EEC draft budget

European Parliament  
Strasbourg  
A complaint about Community overspending since Parliament rejected the 1980 budget was voiced by Mr Richard Balfe (London, South Inner, Soc) who also felt that MEPs should not try to know what is proposed and to withdraw their children if they feel it is going to be harmful.

Parliament approved a Budgets Committee resolution which considered it essential for the Council of Ministers to present the draft budget at the April session of Parliament.

Mr Balfe said that if the Parliament overspent and ignored a treaty in one area it could ignore it in other ways, too. MEPs knew also that when the budget was passed they would be reimbursed for expenses which had been cut since the earlier budget was rejected.

Mr Allan Rogers (South East Wales, Soc) Vice-President of the Parliament, presiding, said they should not impute unworthy motives to colleagues.

Mr Balfe said he included himself in his remarks about expenses. We have (he said) a plous resolution with a notional timetable,

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# Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing

Japan Style exhibition which opened at the V & A this week, occupies nearly half of the first floor of their Regent Street building in London and their display department has done them proud—you really should go very early in the morning to appreciate it fully.

As you would expect, there are fans and lanterns and paper parasols and kimono (long sleeves reaching to the floor for single girls, shorter when you marry). All very pretty, but saying "A present from Tokyo" as clearly as if you had bought them in the airport shop. I mean, what do you do with them when you get them back to Lowestoft?

The outstanding feature of the whole display is, for me, the porcelain, some of it is by Japan's foremost designer, Masahiro Mori, whose work is also being shown by the V & A. It includes a strikingly striped royal blue and white set of hors d'oeuvre dishes which fit together in a geometric pattern. At £125 it is perhaps destined for a chic open-plan penthouse, but in a more modest price range there is a companion set, pepper and mustard set, in the same stripes and on its own wooden tray, at £25.

Most of the cups and bowls come in sets of five, rather than the sixes we are used to: the Japanese like symmetry in their tableware, as well as in their flower-arranging, it seems. Among them is a particularly delicate set of handless teacups whose pattern is achieved by arranging grains of rice in the porcelain before firing. They melt with the heat, leaving a tiny, almost transparent, design behind. £25 for five.

Collectors may like to concentrate on the display of masks in paper mache from £30 and in clay from £75, and on the dolls, made in lavish fabrics moulded onto the forms. These vary from £12.50 to £250.

Japan at Liberty continues until March 29, and they will

have a smaller selection of Japanese specialities until July 20, when the V & A Japan Style exhibition ends. Oddly, that. Like Chippendale-style furniture, it makes me feel I'm getting an impression rather than an actuality. On the other hand, that is probably the closest we shall ever get to the Oriental mind. On the other, that which is styled in Japan these days may very well be made in Birmingham.

At the less expensive end, there is very pretty wedding gift stationery at 65p. This consists of two sheets of coloured paper, beautifully folded and finished with a gold or silver thread. You unfold the paper, place money between, write your message and replace the knot.

Accomplished flower arrangers will enjoy trying their hand at Ikebana after watching the demonstrations. There are simple glazed clay trays in black, white and navy in three sizes at £5, £8 and £15 and holders which come in boxes containing a whole circle and a half circle which can be used individually or fit together to make an oval. In two sizes, £1.50 and £2.50 per pair.

Mothers who are house-bound by small children and feel they have creative energies to spare might be encouraged by the example of two enterprising women who are making a success out of selling their daughters' clothes.

Catherine Horwood started selling "Castaways" from her own home two years ago. Then a third daughter joined the other two and the room she was using for her shop had to be given up. So she decided to go into mail order.

As second-hand clothes, into mail order won't go, Mrs Horwood began to specialize in hatches of seconds and in spite of the fact that she instantly put herself into competition with big stores who buy seconds for their sales, she rapidly extended her range.

Her new spring brochure includes red or navy velvet shorts at £2.25, with matching short-sleeved tops, striped with white, at £2.95. Both fit ages two to three. There are also hardwearing cotton cord dungarees in beige, brown, black or navy, 92cm and 98cm, £2.90; 104cm, 110cm and 122cm, £3.50.

For babies there is a special purchase of stretch suits for second and third sizes at £1.90 in white, pink, yellow, blue or turquoise, and Zorbi red label seconds nappies in cotton and viscose at £11.50 per dozen.

For orders up to £5 and 60p p&p, over £10 and another 10p in the £1. For a complete list and details of the postal charges, write to Castaways, 133 Haverstock Hill, London NW3 8U.

Danielle Harris also started two years ago, selling her daughter's outgrown but not outworn clothes. When she found she had several suitcases full of very expensive clothes which had been worn only four or five times she began to sell them to a friend. Then she became aware of a much wider market and started to accept other people's nearly-new to re-sell.

She insists that the clothes must be in perfect condition and she works on a sale or return basis.

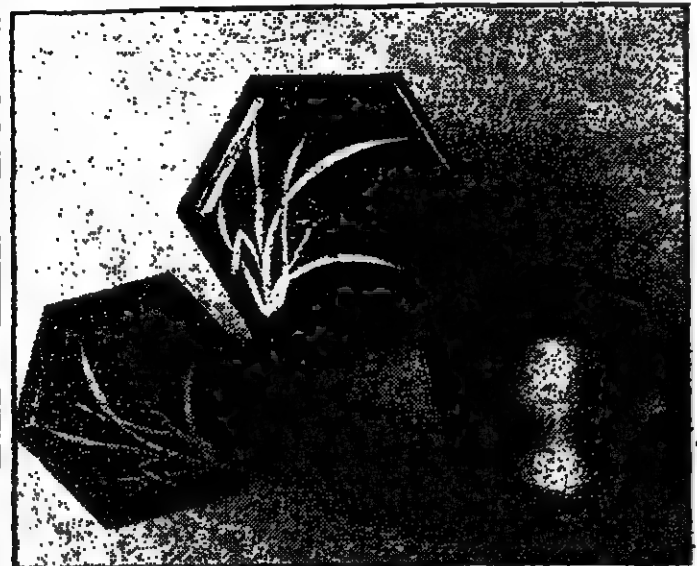
She has been so successful that last week she opened a shop at 190 Albany Street, London NW1, where she stocks 4,000 items of clothing for children from baby sizes to 15 years. There is also a stock of maternity wear, sold on the same principle.

Stock is constantly changing but at the moment she has, for example, a one-shouldered cotton sun dress for a five-year-old which cost £25 and is now £2.50 and a French-made coat for a seven-year-old which was originally £85 and is selling at £22.

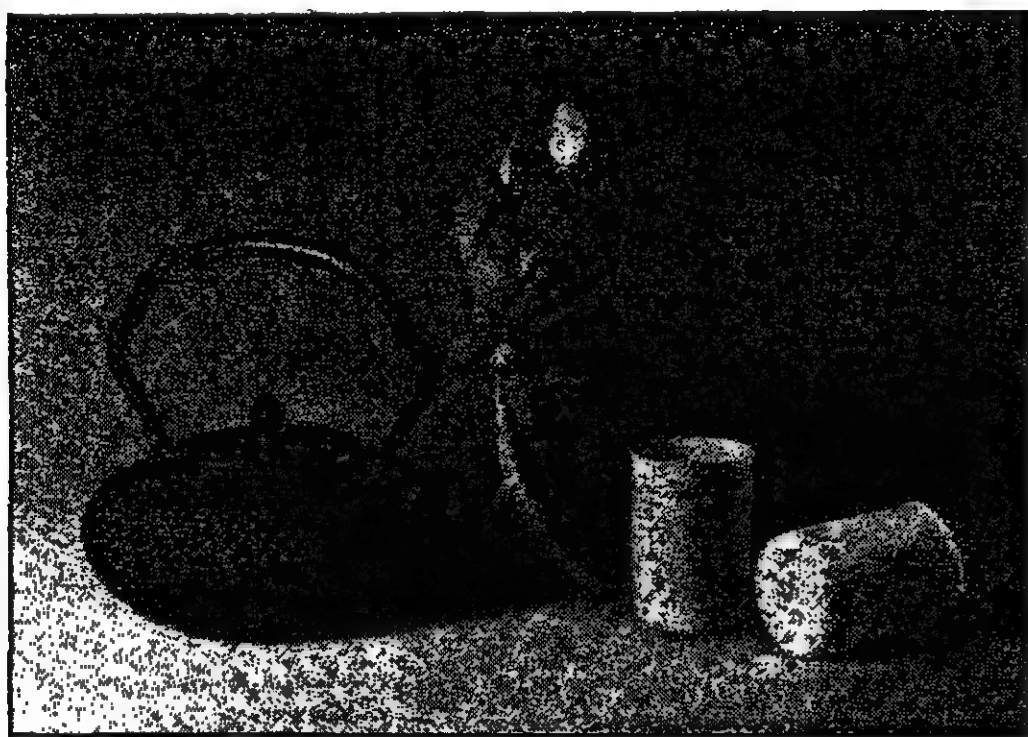
The shop, called Out Grown, also has a dress designed exactly for 10-year-olds, a smart dress which is cleverly cut to fit a four-year-old as a long party dress up to a 10-year-old as a short smock. Theoretically, that means that for £8.50 you have a dress that will last for six years. In practice, don't be surprised if your darling daughter tries to wrap it round your neck after the third year, but then in the children's clothes market every extra year of wear is not only a bonus but a minor miracle.

Mothers Sunday tomorrow is a harmless enough festival, first with its religious origins and then in the seventeenth century to mark the annual return of apprentices and servants to their mother church and mother's home, bearing flowers and Simnel cake. I can't work up any particular sentiment about the occasion though, and if anything I feel that Mums deserve a bit of spoiling on rather more than one set day per year.

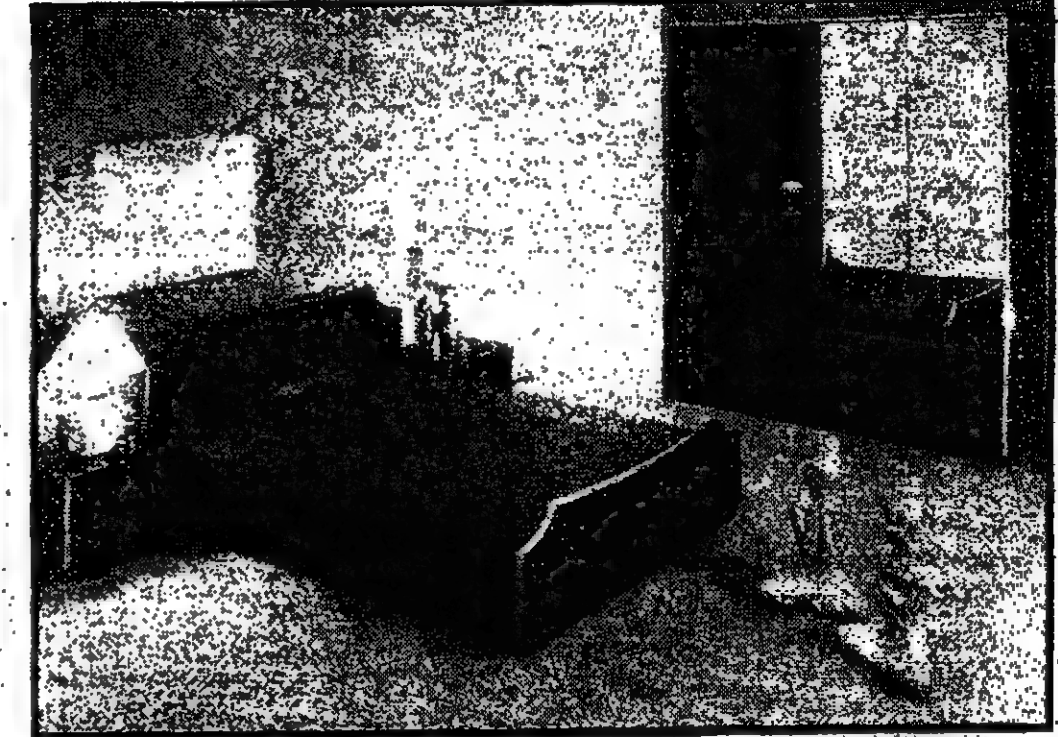
But when Americans create a totally different mothers' day in May, started by a distraught spinster on the death of her mother, and a fathers' day fos-



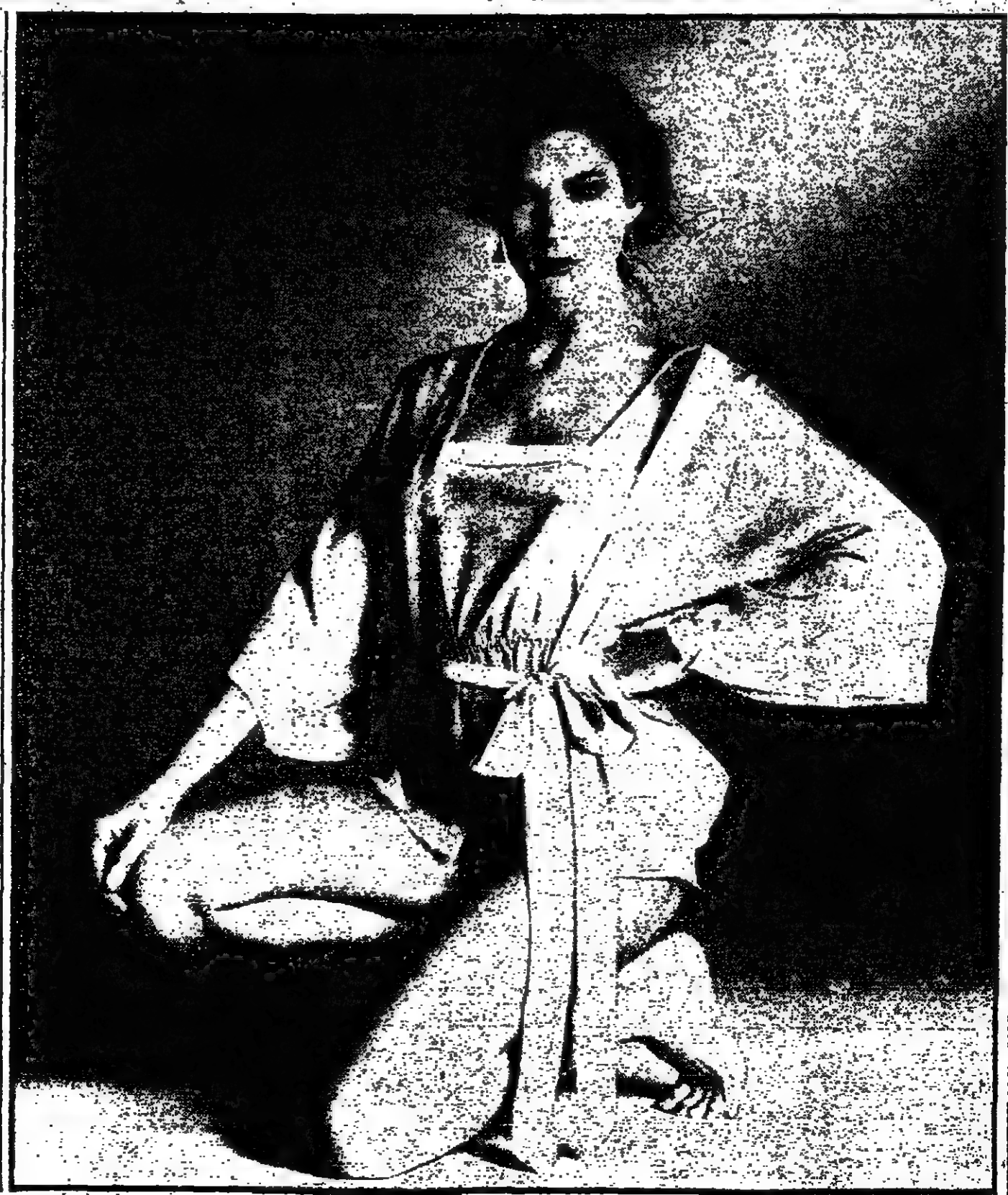
Those who would like a touch of the East but cannot get to the Japanese exhibitions in London need go no further than their nearest large Boots. These hexagonal plastic boxes are lacquered in black and painted in red and gold. The smaller, 3½in x 1½in, fits into the larger, 4½in x 2½in. £8.25 for the nest.



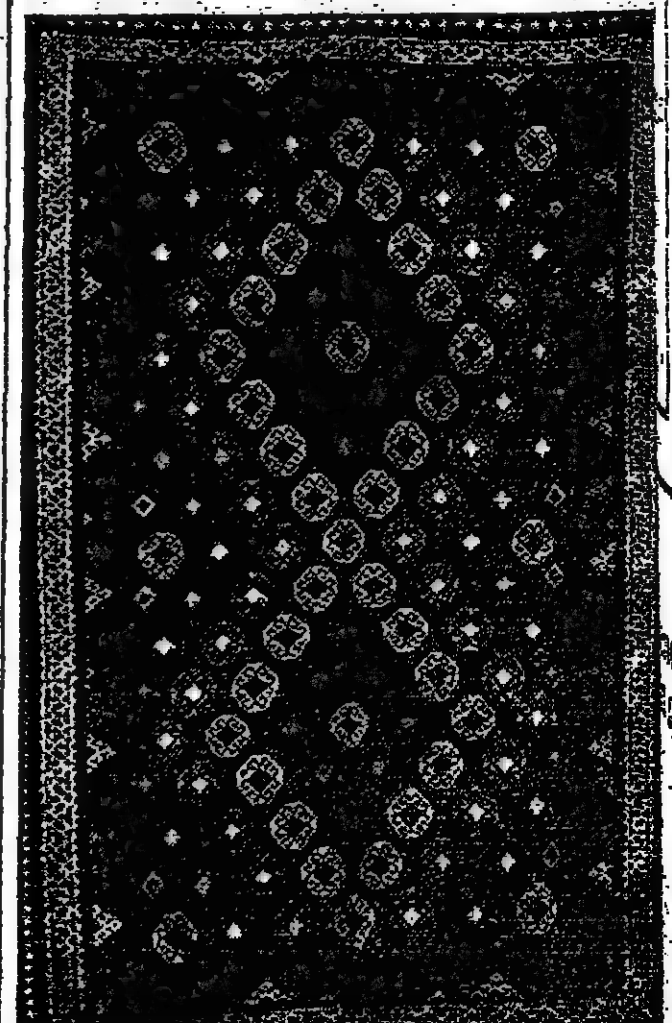
Above: cast iron kettle, £30, gelaha doll in blue brocade, £89, fine porcelain tea cups, £25 for a set of five. All from Liberty. Right: pure silk short kimono, £58.25 with matching camiknickers, £42.50 in pale grey and pink or black with royal blue, designed by Julia for Charles Grahame's Dazzle range at Harrods. Butterfly, Sheffield and Montecito, Ruthin, North Wales.



Above: the Oriental lacquered style in furniture. Bed, including side tables, £503, four-door wardrobe £885. Called Yoko in black with gold trim by Verardo at Maples, Tottenham Court Road and to order through other Maples branches.



Photograph by Peter Akhurst



Kashkei carpet in orange-red with turquoise and brown design, wool on a cotton warp. 8ft x 11ft, £370 from The Rug Shop, Eccleston Street, London SW1.

Anyone capable of putting up a shelf without needing to call in a plasterer to repair the damage has my owed respect. It may be something to do with the fact that I tend to go about DIY with a spoon and fork, as I never have the right tools handy, but I know from painful experience that no shelf of mine is likely to bear any thing heavier than a packet of envelopes without bringing the wall down with it.

Those who have no such tire-some flaw in their capabilities or better still, have a tame handyperson in the house, may like to know of a new shelving system called Colour-Shelf.

These melamine-faced shelves have been matched to the four most popular shades from ICI's Dulux range of paints: van-dyke, honeysuckle and cackin, which Colour-Shelf somewhat confusingly call dark chocolate, beige and birch green. There

is also white, which is at least unambiguous. The shelves can be matched to standards and shelf supports, stove enamelled in exactly the same colours, or can be bought separately.

The result is complete colour coordination—you even get colour-matched screws to fix the standards to the wall, which you may choose to paint to match. They make a nice change from boring old teak.

The shelves come in four widths, 6in, 9in, 12in and 15in, and three lengths, 24in, 36in and 48in. Prices vary from £1.36 for the 24in x 6in to £6.55 for the 48in x 15in. Brackets are from £1.72 per pair for a 6in shelf to £2.81 for the 15in size and standards are sold in 2, 3, 4 and 5ft lengths from £2.81 to £7.07 each. They are available from Harris Home Care, Manchester; Lewis's, Birmingham; Fobels, Coventry; and Selfridges, London.







William Rees-Mogg in Utah, the centre of American conservatism

# Why the Mormons find a magic in Governor Reagan

American conservatism is too little understood in Britain. Its virtues are not appreciated and its faults are caricatured. Utah, the state which is dominated by the Mormon church, is a particularly good state to study conservatism at work.

Utah probably shows American conservatism at its best, relatively free from the extremism which distorts it in some other regions, able to show excellent results in state government and in Salt Lake City—a city that is efficient, clean, safe, solvent and surprisingly beautiful, with fine buildings lying between the mountains and the lake.

First, one should remove a common error about the Mormons, because the influence of the Church of Latter Day Saints is pervasive in the state. Nineteenth-century sensationalism has left in print an image of this church which does not correspond to reality. It is not mere cult but an extremely well-organized and strongly established church, preaching a doctrine of faith and works, and concentrating on the family as the basis of society. It is right for other Christians to treat it with respect. In Utah, where it is strongest, its relations with other churches and religions are good.

The conservatism of Utah is not simply a party conservatism, though it has helped to give the Republicans both the Senate seats and a large majority in the state legislature. Conservatism is in the spirit of the people. Yet in presidential elections Utah has only twice departed from the majority in the last 15 elections, when it voted for Nixon against Kennedy in 1960 and for Reagan against Carter in 1976. Both were very close elections nationally. The Governor, Mr Scott Matheson, and the excellent young Mayor of Salt Lake City, Mr Ted Wilson, are both Democrats.

## US Elections



though Salt Lake City is run on a nonpartisan basis.

Certain conservative attitudes run through Utah politics, neither the governor nor the mayor could possibly be described as big spenders. The objective of maximum social benefit for minimum public expenditure is natural enough, but seldom attained. In Utah the social results are good, and the expenditure in city and state is kept relatively low.

Sometimes in the United States one feels that the conservative attitude in politics is pushed to that extreme point at which individualism becomes anti-social. The basic ideas of American conservatism include personal self-reliance, the limitations of government and particularly of federal government, the assertion of public expenditure, the liberty and independence of the citizen and an old-fashioned patriotism. These are in themselves good, but there is a selfish materialism which can spoil them and lead to the squalid clutter to extreme wealth living in fear of angry poverty, to rich white suburban ghettos and poor black city ghettos.

In Utah the conservative ideals are almost universally held, even by the Democrats. The governor describes himself as a federalist, that is to say he believes in preserving and asserting the rights of the state in the federation; he is opposed to straight Washington rule.

I discussed with him the conser-

vation regional issue of the MX missile. Washington will have to convince him of the merits of the strategic case before he will agree to support the deployment of the MX missile on a giant racetrack in the Nevada desert. It may have come as a surprise to the President to face a small state's governor of such intellectual range and force; I confess it did to me.

In Utah the results of extreme individualism, which have permeated the disfigurement of some American states, do not follow. I think it is because Utah balances the pioneer principles of independence and self-reliance with those of voluntary social responsibility, derived from both the religious teachings and from the historic experience of the Mormons. Like all pioneers, the Mormons had to depend on themselves; like all pioneers they also had to depend on each other.

Brigham Young, one of the greatest of American pioneer leaders, chose the beehive as the symbol of the new state, and a beehive is a symbol both of work and of cooperation.

The pioneer period is still very close. The oldest building in Utah dates from 1843. Utah is as close now to its first pioneer establishment as Massachusetts was in 1776; outside the cities there were really pioneer conditions lasted down to the Second World War.

The Mormons also have stable and deep family roots. Many Utah families trace their ancestry back four or five generations to the original pioneers.

The practice of polygamy is long since gone, but Mormon families are still large and these relationships make Utah a society composed of stable and interlocking extended families.

Utah has therefore a conservatism in which the libertarian elements are

cooperation and with the stability that comes from a communal religious faith and a strong family life. Mormons have to tie and have to give their time to the church. Their young men go as missionaries all over the world. There is also a drive for education and betterment; Utah has the highest proportion of university graduates of any state in the union, and the missionaries return bilingual in a wide variety of languages.

Utah will certainly support Governor Reagan at the Republican convention, as they did in 1976. If he is the Republican candidate, and he probably will be, Utah will vote for him as they voted for President Ford in 1976. What is the magic Governor Reagan has for this conservative people, with their reasonable and co-operative view of life?

He is the man they trust; they identify with what he has to say, they believe him to be honest, and the evidence supports that belief. He is, like them, a westerner, though he is a westerner by adoption, having been born in Illinois. The west, like the south, has its own historic reasons for distrusting the federal government—the federal army before the Civil War trained its guns on Salt Lake City from the site that is now the University of Utah—and it certainly has its own culture.

Mr Reagan has always preached distrust of big Washington government and opposition to big Washington spending and he belongs to and understands the western culture. For a long time he has been the acknowledged spokesman of the traditional pioneer view of American society. Many people in Utah would qualify them spoken confidently.

I cannot help wondering whether his doctrines, but they like to hear Governor Reagan's words, and they have acquired the essential element of



Governor Reagan: trusted man

social responsibility which Utah conservatism possesses, or the stability that goes with it. Much of the political work of this state, including probably most of the work of the part-time legislature, is undertaken out of a sense of social duty, a sense I find equally among the Republicans and Democrats in Utah. I am not sure that this language of duty is an equally strong part of the conservatism that is being preached in the rest of the United States, nor do I believe that the conservatism of self-reliance can be made to succeed without the balance of the conservatism of social responsibility.

## Bringing the people's champion to the people

It is nearly 13 years since the passing of the Act improving and adapting the foreign concept of the Ombudsman into our constitution. The time has come perhaps to ask the question, where does it go from here?

As a customer—as an MP and as a minister at the receiving end in two departments, Wales and Defence—I can vouch for its success, though it is on a modest scale than originally envisaged. Whitehall treats the office of Parliamentary Commissioner with respect and avails its verdicts with considerable concern.

Unfortunately the title Ombudsman and even less so the words Parliamentary Commissioner, mean very little to most of my constituents. The title has had one something which has been a citizen's protector or Norway's Ireland's Commissioner for Complaints would be more effective.

The number of complaints, and certainly the number of those within its jurisdiction, have not come anywhere near expectation. That is why, although maladministration is only the tip and of administration, a greater effort is needed in the next few years to sell the office and its jurisdiction to the general public.

The appointment of a non-civil servant to the office killed off the idea that it was a perquisite of the Civil Service. But the fact that it is a development will need different skills, and I hope that it becomes the exception rather than the rule for the same discipline to provide parliamentary commissioners with a succession.

The concept has multiplied in that we now have a Health Commission and local government commissioners. Unfortunately there has been no attempt to achieve common access, some think that leaves the public baffled. The Parliamentary Commissioner has to be approached through an MP, the Health Commissioner can be approached directly, while the local government commissioner has to be approached through a local councillor, only if that fails can there be direct access.

When the Parliamentary Commission Bill was being taken through the Commons, one of its virtues was the requirement that a complaint had to be funnelled through an MP, who might otherwise have feared the erosion of his rights and duties as a pursuer of grievances. It was also feared that without this procedure, the commissioner would be inundated with an avalanche of complaints.

Since then a Heath Robinson arrangement has been devised. When people write directly to the commissioner, the Commons should himself offers to send those complaints which seem to warrant investigation to the complainant's MP, making it clear that he would be prepared to start an investigation should the MP so wish.

This seems to work in the overwhelming number of cases, but it is still open to a particular MP to block the commissioner, and I suspect there are a few MPs who will have little or nothing to do with him. Whatever the original fears, the argument about the commissioner being inundated with complaints has now been tested and can be put on one side.

The by now obviously artificial barriers of refusing direct access to the Parliamentary Commissioner should be removed. In any event it does not make sense that when one writes his other MP of Health Commissioner he can be approached directly.

In the same way some of the real difficulties which have arisen regarding access to the local government commissioners should also be tackled by direct right of access. Of course the person with a complaint should first approach the relevant authority, but he should be able to go straight to the commissioner if his complaint concerns central government, the health service or local government.

What of their jurisdiction? Their primary role is to investigate maladministration, and

our Parliamentary Commissioner relies on the "catalogue" as to what maladministration is, like a one chance to see on a step, this usually is obvious.

The examples he has a bias, neglect, past delay, incompetence, tardiness, perversity, arbitrariness, and so on, sound like an enlarged Deadly Sins. Sir Alan, who was Parliamentary Commissioner from 1971-76, that most of the maladministration is done within the most basic examples, but consisted of one might call straight human failings, and, "delay, wrong information, advice, simple mistakes."

The fields excluded by Parliamentary Commissioner jurisdiction have been announced and the Commission agreed to some extent. What is important is a new office should be a regular review against a stick of experience.

The issue of jurisdiction, better in the case of the Commissioner. He can come in a rather broad in the case of the service. But when it is the service, the judgment is involved, it is a full stop. It is our jurisdiction.

A general practice, be investigated because under contract to the service, and is in its own right a full stop. It is our jurisdiction.

The provision which the commissioner from getting complaints which clinical judgment was into the Act at the British Medical Association.

It is a limitation with not be justified, since the Commissioner investigate complaints come to him direct patients in hospitals. Ministry of Defence, which comes under government control.

There is profound faction with this limit select committee. "F complaints point of often feels that I'm half or less than half when I have only been look at part of a case."

In the intervening years, the Commissioner has evolved. Here again a public concern. The review of the 1976 Act, the Commissioner should investigate complaints, not anything sacrosanct is of a police officer, clinical judgment of a but not of the adult sets of a civil servant, official or the local MP to block the commissioner, and I suspect there are a few MPs who will have little or nothing to do with him.

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John M

The writer is Labour MP Aberavon.

## That popular Edwardian Lady will soon have a Victorian rival

DATE	WHERE CAUGHT	WATER	RODS	FLY	BALANCE	GRUBS	TROUT	SEA TROUT	VARIOUS	WEIGHT
										LB. OZ.
1923										
June 15	Eastbourne, Sussex									
July 5	Loch Broom Glebe	Loch an Tinnian								
6		Loch a Chàin								
9		Loch an Fhiona								
10		Loch an Tinnian								
11										
12										
16		Loch a Chàin								

## The nostalgia that didn't get away

There is a story about Edith Holden's *The Country Diary* that a grandmother, unwrapping her Christmas presents around the tree last year and finding the book among them, smiled ruefully and admitted that it was the seventh copy she had received.

It is the absolute suitability of the book as a birthday present, with its facsimile faded yellow pages and charming water colours recording a way of life long since gone that accounts for its £13m profits, and the fact that today, two-and-a-half years after it was published, it is still on the British best seller list. It has never been off it.

After this week grandmothers may get a little variety. On March 17 Michael Joseph (who published the *Country Diary*) are bringing out *Muriel Foster's Fishing Diary*. This time, the appeal is to anglers, said to be the most numerous single group of sportsmen in the country.

Once again, it is a facsimile reproduction, but instead of a nature book, with quotations from Browning and Christina Rossetti interspersed among the daily entries and the water-colours, it is a fishing log, giving the weights and types of fish caught in the rivers of England and Scotland, by a same eccentric and rather majestic Victorian lady who lived and fished until arthritis confined her to her bed.

Her great-niece, Patricia King, who inherited the diary, remembers watching her great-aunt make her way across the meadows to the river in her brogues and ankle-length tweeds, "a physically enormous woman who despite her great big hands did minute and exquisite needlework and left a garden so intricate it had to be manicured."

The fishing diary is also illustrated: fish flies, many birds, a few landscapes. It is as a publishing phenomenon rather than as individual books that these diaries are so popular. When Alan Brooke, the publicist responsible for them, says: "I instantly felt that Edith Holden's diary was the perfect present; it was very attractive; it had no sex and violence; it evoked an England people feel has vanished he seems to be speaking not of a book, but of an object, a charming, gentle possession redolent with nostalgia for an England now covered in water houses.

There is a fortune to be made these days in nature books: David Attenborough's *Life on Earth* has sold 350,000 copies; the *Sunday Times Book of the Country*, not due out until May, already has commitments for 90,000. The list is endless.

But a return to nature does not quite explain the overwhelming success of these diaries. Rather it is this insight into the past, this feeling that what you are holding in your hands is a private, never intended for publication memoir,

that gives them their charm, particularly as the high quality of reproduction makes it possible to believe that you are actually in possession of the original. (Such perfection is expensive: *The Country Diary* cost Michael Joseph £150,000 in printing for their first impression of 75,000 copies, not least because the book had to be taken to pieces, and some of the writing, where it had crept into a fold, shifted over, before it could be reproduced.)

*The Country Diary* is about nostalgia, but not so much else. Its drawings are very pretty, but they are not startling. Yet its success is impossible to exaggerate. It is not just British grandmothers who have been deluged in diaries. America,

first wary, has now sold 300,000 copies; Germany 55,000. Sweden 26,500, even though handwriting experts have had to be called in to transcribe, over the water-colours and yellow pages, handwritten translations of the words. There are also postcards, calendars, diaries, plates, writing paper, records and even jigsaw puzzles.

Alan Brooke has given some thought to these diaries. In the months that followed the publication of *The Country Diary*, he was bombarded with similar offerings, faded sketches and notebooks, reminiscences dug out of attics and cupboards by descendants who saw in their great-grandparents' idle doodlings a sudden fortune to be made.

They were disappointed: Michael Joseph have been very canny about their spectacular best seller. He wished to put a competitor into the field they have waited until now to launch another, though they did call a chronicle of the lochen valley, commissioned long ago, Janet Mark's *Nature Diary*. This autumn they are bringing out *The Country Lady*, an illustrated biography of Edith Holden. But they are not committing themselves to more, not even to the two other bits of Muriel Foster memorabilia, the shooting diaries her brothers kept and that she illustrated for them.

No one knows what gave Muriel Foster her passion for fishing, nor what she would

think if she knew the fate of her diary, meticulously brought up to date day by day for 36 years. But the publishing prospects of this long, thin, leather-bound notebook, no more original or exciting than its predecessors and no more explicable in book terms, look good. Seventy-five thousand copies have been printed; many have already been taken by booksellers.

*Muriel Foster's Fishing Diary* is probably all set to follow *The Country Diary* (dubbed the "most bought, least read book of the decade") and Janet Mark's *Nature Diary* into the best seller lists.

The sad thing is that it will come too late to save Ivy Cottage, Muriel Foster's house in Wiltshire. Three years ago, unable to afford the costs, Patricia King was forced to sell the little Queen Anne house her great-aunt left her.

*Muriel Foster's Fishing Diary*. Michael Joseph, £10.50.

Caroline Moorehead

## Welcome to Alex

Letter from Egypt

Again the ship shied off from the line of approach buoys, turning at speed as tightly as a banking aircraft, she tilted abruptly with a slithering of deck chairs and startled squeaks.

Pilot or no pilot, the captain was not committing his responsibility (the Danish Dana Sirena, 8,300 tons, 630 passengers, 150 cars. Regular drive-on-drive-off Mediterranean ferry, Alexandria-Patras-Heraklion-Alexandria) to any channel between buoys unless an unobstructed harbour entrance at its end was clear to Danish eyes on the bridge.

After a surprise force eight gale in the Adriatic, with dire consequences for seven cars, the trip had been eventful enough. To save time the ship carried a pilot from the Alexandria Port Authority throughout the run, as well as two Egyptian entry-formality officials.

"Stop asking fool questions and order me a couple of tugs," the pilot bawled into the shore radio. "You should have known we were coming." We made it third time round, cursing past the breakers, tumbling stone boulders into the huge and crowded harbour. Precisely how crowded became apparent as the dome of the marine passenger terminal loomed ahead.

Moored bow-to-stern along each side of the terminal jetty were assorted vessels from the cargo than passenger

variety. Most of the jetty's outer end was occupied by a French warship. The only unoccupied bit of quayside was next to it, barely wider than the Dana Sirena's drive-off stern.

With a tug ready to intervene at either side, the Sirena was gradually eased astern. A few feet from the jetty, an extra burst of rain broadside on pushed her against the French man-of-war stern. But if the ship's difficulties were over, they were only starting for her passengers, most of them aglow with anticipation at the prospect of driving to the Pyramids and ancient Egypt's other glories.

There were bus tour groups across for a week, luxury "afari" outfits and scores of individual motorists. The ship's officials had already issued visas, but the proclaimed intention of also completing all further formalities on board "so that tourists cars can roll off at Alexandria without delay" was proving illusory.

When, after a couple of hours, the first of them rolled—or, rather, hopped off, for the lateral motion of the ship's bows was causing the ramp to shift constantly—they proceeded not on through the Land of Egypt but into the frenzy and shouting of the customs, their procedures incom-

prehensible to all but the initiated.

In addition to the officials, the hubbub was augmented by a fraternity of free-lance formalities "chasers" who, for a sizeable consideration—part of which no doubt is handed on—will see you through.

Our "chaser", fleet of foot and tongue and serving four cars simultaneously, had no trouble, only slightly traumatized, in an hour or so. He rode with us to the outside

This is the third year running that a bitter war has been seen by inland waters in the southern area where I live and has stayed around for several weeks in January and early February, only to emerge occasionally and stroll about.

Once one was watched stroking down a nearby lane and another time it perched on a yew tree. None of the birds has ever made a sound.

It seemed that the bird's look on the old yew near a watercress bed was its favourite basking-place. It took up its stand in the morning sun where its light, striped plumage, so admirable a camouflage against the normal reed-cover, was as obvious as a pale owl's or a buff Oryzopsis's and at times, hunched into a squat, thick-legged tea cosy, it could have been an elderly hen.

Its bill skywards in threat

gate for final clearance. "Be happy in Egypt," he said with a parting handshake. "I will help you again."

In the gathering dusk, we splashed through puddles, dodging the lurching buses, into the centre of the gravelly "pearl of the Med." A patisserie, still Greek with "5 o'clock tea" on the glass door and lovers whispering at little tables, supplied a whiff of Dur-el-Alexandria and the reviving breeze.

Alan McGregor

## The quiet visitors

posture, looking odder than ever.

Last year it was difficult to know if it was one bird or two. It was seen frequently by several ponds south of the Downs and was also noticed beside a lake, perhaps five flight miles off, under the northern escarpment of the hill. It perched on a oak tree in that cold place and was not so outstanding as it had been against the dark yew, as it sat to regurgitate pellets of undigested food.

Both birds must digest all parts of any fish they catch. There was no sign of fish-bones or scales in the bitter pellets but like those of herons which I

find frequently on dyke-banks on the water-meadows, these hawked up food remains contained tightly packed small mammal fur and bones, possibly in the smaller bird's pellets, from bank voles and rats.

Three of them were decorated by little circular eye-centres from amphibians, as far as I could tell, young moths, frogs or even newts, which stared up from the surface.

Three other contained some fibrous vegetable matter and as the weather got colder and colder and the lake and all its verges were frozen harder and harder, the last of it was made up of some very long bits of rust, purple moss-rose and waxy hair-grass, all in a dedicated state.

Alison Ross

## Rivals at the carnival

Sportsview

The brush of a Hogarth could hardly do justice to the Bacchanalian atmosphere of the National Hunt Festival at Cheltenham. A more beautiful setting for a racecourse could not be imagined than this picturesque amphitheatre framed by the Cotswold Hills. All seemed sweetness and light at three o'clock on Wednesday afternoon when Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, watched benignly by the bowler hatted and tweed-coated stewards, was presenting the trophy

for the race named in her honour to that cheerful and colourful Irish trainer, Mick O'Toole, whose horse Chinnurall had just romped home by 25 lengths.

Yet only a few "is away about 25 drunken" were already celebrating Chinnurall's victory, waving champagne bottles and glasses in the air as they danced an unsteady jig. This was harmless enough but not so the incident witnessed a few minutes later, when an impatient tug dragged an unfortunate man out of a telephone box and hauled him on to the ground. Only slightly perturbed, his victim got up, brushed his trousers and walked away. Another racegoer met his death in a tavern brawl on the Tuesday evening.

So all is not sweetness and light at the festival. The meeting is always lively because of the huge Irish contingent, who flock across the water to see if their much vaunted horses can put one for two, or three or more) across the English. High spirits are on the thing, violence is quite another. I must hasten to add that this disturbing news should not be blamed in any way on the marauding men in green.

One thing which may be debited to the Irish is a 30 per cent decline in betting turnover. No one could say whether the fall in the value of the Irish pound was making them

more cautious with their money or whether there were fewer Irish "bankers". Drumlagan and Chinnurall apart, there were just as many mobile Irish banks but they refused to throw any light on the matter; they said that, for security reasons, they would not divulge how much cash their countrymen were taking out or whether the sum was larger or smaller than usual. They did reveal that more customers than usual were English, cashing cheques with bank cards.

Weep not for the bookmaker. Although the betting turnover was down, there was no sign of a diminution in interest by the racing public. The meeting was crowded as ever—almost overcrowded—although the overall attendance was down from 78,986 in 1979 to 75,481 this year. However, on Gold Cup day, an increase of 1,500. The tented village is developing an urban spread of its own and business under canvas is said to be brisk.

The true romance of Cheltenham lies with the gallant horses with their equally brave jockeys, and the carnival atmosphere created by the Irish, who form a third of the crowd.

The Anglo-Irish rivalry has always been intense. The betting is as ferocious as the competition on the track, even if much less was taken this

time. This year the victory over the English was won on the second and only on the final day but it was a race that mattered. Cottage, who was ridden to perfection by Tommy made every yard of the run to win, outstripping his rivals at full stretch. Barni Gold Cup. Cheered home by Irish contingent—and noisy Englishmen as well—12-year-old gelding Barni rivals at full stretch. Barni packed stands both April and the 15-year-old Vidi looked dangerous in the last fence. Tied Cottage, clear again and again, challenged. His owner, Moore, is one of the great men of Irish steeplechasing. Carberry was winning fourth Gold Cup.

The highlight of the meeting was undoubtedly the two meetings between the two little ponies, Monksfield, Meath, and Sea Pigeon and Champion Hurdle. Sea Pigeon had never beaten Monksfield and this year a heated battle interrupted. The northern horse had to have little chance of obtaining his revenge.

Monksfield had been rumoured to be back to best proved to be false.

Michael Scott



elections held about a year ago, a general election tend to be badly for the Government. It is by these standards, South-East is a poor result. The swing of almost 13 per cent in the Conservatives is in fact those suffered by our at Poole, Wiltshire and Cambridge. In 1967, worse than the swings against the Conservatives of eight per cent recorded at Ipswich and Macclesfield in 1964. There is no mystery why Ministers so often do badly. It is after the initial good will is out: it is a matter of elementary strategy to get the unpopular parts of the programme of the way early. Mrs. Thatcher's Government, more than most, has made a virtue of rigour, of its remedies, and a virtue is natural. It is one thing to vote for a policy involving substantial hardships in future, but another to resist the chance of a sharp discomfort when in midst of them. There are special factors at Southend added to the Conservatives' difficulties. Their candidate had at as slight a prior relationship with his constituency as it is possible to have. Voters do not like to think that they are being

made use of to restore some remote party potentate to his place on the front bench. Mr Taylor has a great deal more constituency work to do before he can count the seat as securely his.

The result was a good one for the Liberals. It is proverbial that when a Conservative administration is losing popularity the Liberals do well, picking up the votes of Tories who cannot bring themselves to go all the way across to Labour. Southend may indicate that this pattern reasserting itself at a time when the party has come through a bad period with less loss of support nationally than might have been expected. But they started from such a small local base and fought a campaign so much concerned with personalities that it would be wrong to read too much into the figures.

For the Government, the result is less important than it might seem. They have a secure working majority and every prospect of remaining in office for another three or four years. In terms of crude electoral arithmetic they can spare any number of Southends. Morale is another matter. When Churchill said that one vote was enough

he could have gone on to say that it might be better than a hundred. In a party with a comfortable majority MPs feel more at liberty to kick against the official line and nurse their consciences. Thursday's vote in the Lords on school transport is by no means the first sign that even the Conservative Party is not immune to such tendencies these days. There is no lack of members, both on the back benches and in the cabinet itself, who are worried about the tenor of party policy. Southern will increase the doubts, though there is a body of adherents for a clear rival programme. An incomes policy, for instance, is generally seen to be unattainable in present circumstances even by those who regard it as desirable.

Government MPs as well as voters feel uncomfortable when the hardships of official policy are felt, while the rewards remain, inevitably, still hypothetical. But the Government is secure enough to remain in office until the time when the rewards should begin to materialize. It will be then that the electorate can judge, and will, whether the sacrifice was worthwhile.

From Professor F. T. Burnham

Sir, Thousands of ordinary people must be asked the question: Is the talk of nuclear war—not just in the abstract or war as a disaster but nuclear war in our own country? Do we really believe this is a credible, acceptable solution to a political problem?

Anyone who has seen or read the pictures of the atomic bombing on Hiroshima in 1945 will realize that thermonuclear weapons are so potent to perhaps a thousand times that Hiroshima will cause indescribable damage to this country. The result will be unimaginable death and destruction from which it will never recover. Yet every day we seem more nearer to the brink.

Our purpose is laudable. I defend those values of civilization we believe in and treasure, and we must do. But does anyone really believe that the end justifies the war? A war which obliterate our big cities, causes indescribable suffering and undermines the very structure of life in this country? Can we have any sense of the democracy we have been so lucky to lead to some form of dictatorship?

Nor does the important question ever seem to be asked, what are we doing to them? The men, we are told, are the enemy. The enemy is a hundred million or more who die as a result of our missiles?

Is it not time we stood back and looked at the position afresh before

*From the Chairman of the EEC.*

whereas regarding them in the press does not? There is surely an element of hypocrisy here. Did any of your readers who saw the programme feel so impressed that they now wish to join nationalist movements and burn down houses? Or do you just feel that other, less wise members of the public would be led astray. We believe, however, and such evidence as we have strongly supports the belief, that the public is in fact no less wise than the opinion formers in these matters.

At any event, the sequence which in prospect caused such excitement consisted simply of a silent shot, lasting 21 seconds, of a man, claiming to be a spokesman for the nationalists, handing over to the camera a document to state their political aims: it was later translated in the studio. The man was not interviewed, nor was there ever any intention of doing so. And such information as the film team gathered was later handed over to the police.

I am led to wonder whether the argument is really that it would be more convenient for authority if the British public were not told what is going on in Wales. If so, let that be clearly stated. But if the argument is that the public do have a right to know, but not at the hands of the BBC, then let that be clearly and honestly argued out.

Yours faithfully,  
**MICHAEL SWANN,**  
Broadcasting House,  
Portland Place, W1.

From Mr John Eliot Gardiner and  
others

Sir, As musicians and sponsors of musical activities we wish to draw your attention to a grave problem that faces every professional choir and orchestra in Britain.

In the past many musicians have always been treated as "self-employed". In each concert or recital a management may employ different men, with whom it has no contract of service. The management engages a conductor whose professional expertise is in the coordination of the musician's individual skills and talents. Every one concerned, including the Inland Revenue, continues to treat musicians as "self-employed".

Under the Department of Health of Social Security has now ruled that musicians, when playing in an orchestra, are "employed". This decision, which arises from their interpretation of the Social Security Act of 1975, is still being fought in the courts, but if upheld may well cost each management many thousands of pounds. Most of the managements concerned are registered charities: few of them could cope with the further burden, should they be forced into bankruptcy.

We cannot believe this was the intention either of the Labour Government when framing the Act, or of the present Conservative Government in upholding the legislation.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN ELIOT GARDINER,  
YERVUHY MEXLIN,  
LENNOX BEEKELEY,  
L. P. CHAPPELL,  
FRANCIS SANDILANDS,  
R. LEIGH-PEMBERTON,  
1 Surrey Street, WC2,  
March 11.

prospect of continued sales to the Soviet Union of subsidized butter from the European Community exemplifies the absurdity to which the common agricultural policy has led. Prices have been set so high that they encourage dairy concerns to produce more butter than consumers inside the Community intend to buy, hence the "butter mountain". As part of the process of getting rid of it the surpluses are offered cut-price or at prices well below those paid by the Community. The difference is made up by a subsidy which comes from the Community budget, and thus falls on the British taxpayer, a Britain is the largest net contributor. The Soviet authorities, having bought the butter cheaply, sell it to their own consumers at something like eight pence a lb, which is what they paid for it, thus making a tidy profit for themselves. They, the producers and middlemen gain. The Community taxpayers, particularly in this country, lose.

It has been more militant than the others in its reaction to Afghanistan and partly because it has nothing to gain from the sales. (The Russians have made it available then even when it is available they do not like the salted butter produced in this country). Countries such as France, Ireland and Denmark, which have butter to sell the Soviet Union have insisted that traditional trade flows should be maintained. They have criticized measures taken by the Commission to restrict butter sales in the aftermath of Afghanistan. Of the 140,000 tonnes of butter exported last year to the Soviet Union, about half came from France.

Emerging Community policy—or lack of it—reflects these different views. On the one hand the Council of Ministers, on the insistence of the exporting countries, has agreed to the principle of respecting traditional trade flows. On the other the European Parliament, under pressure from British Conservatives, recently

figure and the subsidies lower. Sales of up to 80,000 tonnes are being envisaged — representing the average of recent years—and they will be almost wholly confined to stocked, as opposed to fresh, butter. A new system has been instituted to allow a closer watch on what goes on.

The European Parliament should keep up its pressure against these sales. But the real absurdity is not so much that subsidized butter goes to the Soviet Union as that Community policies should lead to the need for such costly exports at all, whether to the Soviet Union or anywhere else. The Soviet case should be pursued, not only on its own merits but as a way of *dramatizing the need for a more realistic level of prices in the Community*, which would gradually reduce the surpluses. Meanwhile more thought should be given to ways of selling off surplus butter within the Community. There are already schemes for selling reduced price

political problems; it is a way that has broken down, is discredited and used up as far as it goes. It was created by the late Lord Mountbatten.

It seems to me that there is only one way to defend the things we believe in, and that is by resisting non-violently any power that would seek to destroy or conquer us. However cruel and aggressive our enemies, our duty is not to let them win by our inaction, and this can be done better by living our principles than by denying them.

There are precedents to guide us. The heroic stand of the Norwegians against the Nazis in World War II is an example. A conqueror can be defeated if the millions he tries to rule refuse to collaborate or to let him use the millions in this country with a resolute determination to resist an invader whatever the cost could take away his power and be victorious. This must be our method.

There would of course be great suffering and sacrifices (though small compared with those of nuclear war), and thousands and thousands and thousands and thousands more. But for our children's sake if not our own we must do it. There is no other way.

One thing must be remembered. While we have nuclear weapons on

From Professor H. A. B. Simons  
 Sir The problem of unit costs of

attention to the Annual Oration, to the Medical Society of London which I gave on May 9, 1977?

With reference to teachers and research workers, I quoted from *The Scope and Nature of University Education* by Cardinal John Henry Newman, where he states: "To discover and to teach are distinct functions; they are also distinct gifts, and are not commonly found united in the same person. He, too, who spends his day dispensing his existing knowledge to all comers, is not to be expected to devote his energy to acquire new. Common-sense of mankind has associated the search after truth with seclusion and quiet. The greatest thinkers have been too latent on their subject to admit of interruption; they have been men of aboutness, not of diffuseness. They have more or less shunned the lecture room and public school."

I might also mention what I also said in this Oration, that a correct balance between the traditional method of teaching and modern methods must be found. Too much adherence to tradition can be an error. But no innovator too often in the past made the error of making their plans from previous wars? Might it not be said that Roland was less inspired in the

From Mr Christopher C. Gay  
Sir Your correspondence on Feb.

ruary 29 were in the main determined to maintain normality by delighting us with their views on such subjects as cricket and team-making. But Mr J. F. Q. Switzer set out to make a special day for us with a skilful attempt to manufacture controversy.

The Local Government Planning and Land Bill promises only routine amendments to planning law. It is outrageous to suggest that the modest changes in development consequences "would have grave consequences".

Common sense suggests a reduction in the areas of duplication in the administration of town and country planning. Unless it is contended that district planning authorities are perverse or incompetent (which manifestly they are not), to entrust them with development control will be an obvious improvement for the developer, those affected by proposed development, the ratepayer and Mr Switzer.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER GAY.  
11 Dene John.  
Canterbury.

## report on open government

decision-making would be drawn into ever smaller and more secret groups.

Now that Whitehall's senior administrators, economists, statisticians and lawyers seem reconciled to a degree of freedom of information, Mr Maude, his Cabinet colleagues and the directors of Whitehall's information divisions, whom he coordinates, are increasingly put of the case, that has now all but achieved the status of conventional wisdom. The Callaghan Cabinet, in its dying days last year, expressed itself in favour of a code of practice on open government. The next Labour administration will certainly be obliged by its manifesto to go that far, even if it stops short of a full-blown status of *The First Division* civil servants are preparing for such a conclusion on the solid trade union grounds that it will affect their working conditions.

The research paper on which the report was based discusses fears widely felt by senior civil servants. These deserve to be taken seriously. It would be unnecessary and regrettable if the *Carcer* Civil Service became a consequence of freedom of information legislation. The author of the paper, Mr Linstead, is right to point out

that the Royal Prerogative and the Civil Service Order in Council, 1978, under which civil servants are recruited at present, are insufficient in practice to prevent ministers by-passing the Civil Service Commission, which has been the guarantor of a Civil Service free from political interference since the late nineteenth century.

A Civil Service Act ensuring that a career official's prospects would not suffer if his advice to ministers was disclosed under a freedom of information act would help reassure Whitehall that open government need not grease a slippery slope back to the jobbery of the early nineteenth century. *Esacode*, the Civil Service bible of a do and say school, would also need to be amended. At present, civil servants, if they obey the rules, must confine themselves in public to repeating what has already been disclosed by ministers.

The report of Mr Linstead and his colleagues should be published as soon as possible as a contribution to the debate on open government and a timely reminder to ministers that the issue is not dead in Whitehall, however unfavourably it may be received inside the Cabinet Room.

From Mr Ivan Gefjen  
 Sir, I am sorry that so distinguished

(March 12) in which he protests against the BBC2 programme of March 9, *Gone for a Soldier*.

Mr G. V. Cooke

is needed if we really want to and  
feel the need to.

3. Government ministers and  
government departments are not  
always best at recognizing changing  
needs nor at encouraging initiatives  
and mobilizing an enthusiastic and  
sustained response from a wide  
variety of people in all sorts of  
voluntary and statutory organiza-  
tions. For this reason, I believe that  
the future development of special  
educational provision would be bet-  
ter ensured if a new independent  
national advisory committee (of  
voluntary, unpaid, expert advisers,  
not a panel) were set up on the  
lines recommended in the Warnock  
Report. If social security needs and  
deserves a national advisory com-  
mittee, so surely do all those young  
masters whose whole lives may be  
unnecessarily stunted and dimin-  
ished if they do not receive the best  
help we can give at the right time.

Yours faithfully,  
G. V. COOKE,  
White House,  
Grange Lane,  
Risholme,  
Lincoln.

March 5.

epistemological of a profound division in educational thought. In the simplest terms, the division is between those who regard the purpose of children's existence as the support and wellbeing of schools and those on the other hand who regard the purpose of schools as being to serve the differing needs of children. The Bishop of Manchester (March 13) evidently belongs to the first group. Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL ADAMS,  
11 Eaglehorpe Street, SW6.  
March 13.

**From Sir Geoffrey Keynes**  
Sir, May I be allowed to speak in

would not be criticized if he chose not to go. I happened to meet him in Cambridge just before he started, and he told me that it would be

Many of the most important  
most recommendations (especi-

### Assisted places scheme

From Mr Michael Adams

Sir, The current controversy about the assisted places scheme, which has from time to time found expression in your columns, appears

without a permanent home or continuity of care?

port (as we are so often reminded)  
they greatly depend.  
Yours faithfully,  
I. O. CHANCE,  
Chairman.  
The Georgian Group,  
2 Chester Street, SW1.

## Communist democracy

certain illiberal features of a traditional censorship which still characterizes what one might call, after Hefner, an undemocratic non-Stalinist communism. We have just learned that according to a special order from the Yugoslav Ministry of Internal Affairs, as published in the *Official Gazette* (No 3, p99), that particular number of *Encounter*, some 32 pages of which were devoted to the Urban-Djilas interview, was banned, and its importation and distribution prohibited.

Yours faithfully,  
M. J. LASKY,  
Editor, *Encounter*,  
59 St Martin's Lane, WC2.

## Lack of red tape

From Mr Roger Hosking.  
Sir, In his letter published today  
(March 7) Mr Gee thinks we may  
be surprised and delighted to learn  
that in his large Government de-  
partment there was no red tape to  
be found when it was actually  
wanted. At the most, we are not  
surprised.  
Yours faithfully,  
ROGER HOSKING,  
The Manor House,  
Trewyn,  
Monmouthshire.







# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

Personal  
investment and  
finance,  
pages 18 and 19

### Stock markets

FT Index 439.8, down 7.1  
FT 100s 64.22, up 0.12

### Sterling

£2.145, down 75pts  
Index 72.3, up 0.1

### Dollar

Index 88.3

### Gold

\$530, down \$25.55

### Money

3-mth sterling 17.4-17.5  
3-mth Euro \$ 19.1-19.2  
6-mth Euro \$ 18.4-18.5

### IN BRIEF

## Mr Maxwell Joseph times likely successor

Maxwell Joseph, aged 70, founder and chairman of the food, and gambling group, has been named as the likely successor when he is about five years time. Joseph, aged 55, became chairman and group director.

Ernest Sharp, aged 49, another possible contender, signing from the company to Britain's largest newspaper, Express, and Mexico — to do more time to other.

Grinstead and Mr Sharp have been joint managing directors for 16 years. Mr Sharp last night said that he was without acrimony. "I never aspired to be chairman and my colleagues knew it," he said.

### Industries poor month

Leading industries had another disappointing month in February, according to the Industrial Societies Association. The association's index of total receipts of £1,689m, a withdrawal of £1,490m, was £36m below January's level and only half the level of the month before.

### Steel aid

Proposals for extra EEC aid to steel reorganisation, are at avoiding the kind of redundancies planned by British Steel Corporation, which is being reorganised, the EEC affairs commissioner.

### Production soars

Iran steel production of 2,265,000 tons in February, the highest monthly production since 1974, was 12.8 per cent above output in January. Provisional figures for February are 8.8 per cent higher than in the period last year.

### Price obstacle

Obstacles on the price of Iranian oil, supplied to the Soviet Union, broke down when a delegation could not agree on the price sought by Iran. Mr. Ali Akbar, the Iranian oil minister, said Iran was not to change its mind.

### Plants close

Motor Co. in Detroit temporarily close three car plants next week in order to keep inventories in line with falling sales. About 10,000 workers will be made redundant.

### In trucks order

British Leyland, the specialist vehicle manufacturer, has a £1.5m order for 40 trucks from Transco, the road transport company.

### Workers lost

493,000 working days lost through strikes in Germany during 1979, ended with 4.28 million in previous year. Lost working days were confined almost entirely to the iron and steel industry.

## Top two banks raise prime lending rates to record 18.5 pc

From Frank Vogl  
Washington, March 14

Bank of America and Citibank, the two largest banks in the United States, today raised prime lending rates to a record 18.5 per cent, charging their most creditworthy customers 18.5 per cent.

Further prime rate increases are expected on Wall Street, where speculation is widespread that a new round of credit tightening is imminent. Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, is due to hold a press conference tomorrow.

The pace at which the prime rate has surged ahead has been dramatic. The new 18.5 per cent Citibank rate compares to its rates of 15 per cent at the start of this year and 14 per cent a year ago.

Several banks moved only yesterday to raise their rates from 17.75 per cent to 18.5 per cent, but by late today the 18.5 per cent level had been accepted by large numbers of banks across the nation.

The rate increases were announced against a disturbing background of economic news. The economy appears to be still resisting a distinct move towards a slump, which the authorities clearly desire to cool.

Some dealers on the New York Stock Exchange suggest that the market has probably discounted already most of the budget cuts and credit tightening moves. As well as higher interest rates and a more positive tone, perhaps even a rally might emerge next week.

## Extra 3pc squeeze on spending planned

By Caroline Atkinson

The Government appears to be planning a further squeeze of about 3 per cent on public spending volume next year through the application of tight cash limits.

Mr John Biffen, chief secretary to the Treasury, announced yesterday that cash limits for current spending of central government would allow for cost increases of only 14 per cent up to 1980-81.

Prices are expected to rise by about 15 per cent, giving a squeeze of 3 per cent in volume terms. This would come on top of any cuts in particular spending programmes announced in the Government's White Paper on spending to be published on Budget day.

Allowances for cost increases for capital spending are higher, but these are based on the last published government forecasts for inflation, as is the 14 per cent for current spending.

Mr Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, is expected to announce a saving in the Budget of as much as £1,000m in government spending purely because of tighter cash limits.

If the new official inflation forecast is as high as 17 per cent then the cash limits would

after an 0.3 per cent gain in January.

But it is fears of still higher inflation that now seem so deeply and broadly entrenched and banks suggest that these fears are stimulating corporations to borrow large sums, despite the high interest rates. The strong credit demand, combined with the tighter recent stance by the Fed is resulting in the sharp increases in interest rates.

Mr Barry Bosworth, who only a few months ago resigned as director of the White House wage and price council, told a congressional committee today that consumer prices might rise in coming months at annual rates of more than 20 per cent.

He said that "without a change in policy (by the government), inflation would be a minimum of 10 per cent for years to come with the potential for further market disruptions could drive it toward 20 per cent."

Mr Bosworth called for wage and price controls and for a still more restrictive credit policy. He gave a warning that people should not be deluded by the belief that inflation would be brought under control simply by balancing the federal budget.

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## Furness agrees to Tung takeover

By Ronald Pullen

Furness Withy now looks set to become part of Mr C. Y. Tung's Hongkong-based shipping empire in a deal which values one of the oldest names in British shipping at £113m.

Last night the Furness board announced that it had agreed to an improved offer from Orient Overseas Containers, the only publicly quoted company in the Tung group. The new offer of 420p a share cash compares with the original 360p a share terms at which the bid was first made almost a month ago, and upon which Furness advised shareholders to take no action.

The bid still has to run the gauntlet of the Monopolies Commission, which has already

said that a takeover of Furness by a foreign-owned concern was not in the public interest. Mr Tung's son, who has been handling the negotiations in this country, has already discussed the bid with the Office of Fair Trading.

The other uncertainty remains the position of Mr Frank Natty, whose attempts to take over Furness were spooked by the Monopolies Commission. Having been ordered to reduce his holding in Furness, Mr Natty has been buying further shares in Furness since the Tung approach was made and through Dolphin Investments, his company, and the associated Helix Investments, he now controls 14 per cent of the shares. Mr Brian Shaw, chairman of Furness, said last night that

the combination of a fair price and the prospects of a square deal for staff which gave them job security and further opportunities had convinced the board that the bid should be accepted.

"OOC stressed that it intended to work together with Furness Withy to continue to develop it as a major British group." To head off criticisms that control of a British shipping group was passing abroad, OOC said: "Furness will continue to be managed in Britain as a separate enterprise under its own name and with its vessels sailing under the British flag and manned by British crew."

OOC already owns 5.31 per cent of the Furness shares and the directors are putting their 0.16 per cent holding behind

the offer. A further 20 per cent or so of the shares are controlled by merchant bankers Rea Brothers both directly and through investment trusts under its management, and as advisers to Furness it is expected that they will back the bid.

The offer, which is being made through Kenwake, a wholly owned subsidiary of OOC, contains an alternative to the cash in the form of 12 per cent guaranteed unsecured loan notes and is conditional of the bid not being referred to the Monopolies Commission.

The two shipping groups appear to have fairly complementary activities and the chief interest of Mr Tung seems to lie in Furness' South American Lines, its offshore activities and Manchester Liners.

## Gulf fails to block plan for Lonrho share issue

By Bryan Appleyard and Michael Clark

Lonrho's board, yesterday, rejected an attempt by Gulf Fisheries to prevent the creation of 40 million new shares, a 16 per cent increase in the current authorised capital.

It also defeated a move to stop the company buying out the remaining 50 per cent of a Rhodesian copper mine, a stake which is personally controlled by Mr Roland 'Tiny' Rowland, Lonrho's chief executive.

Both battles turned out early in the proceedings to be foregone conclusions. Lord Duncan-Sandys, the chairman, told the packed meeting of 1,000 of Lonrho's £1,000 shareholders that 9,700 postal proxy cards representing 77 million shares had already voted in favour of the increase in capital and only 200 proxies, representing 225,000 shares, had voted against.

It was already known that the trustees connected with Sir Hugh Fraser, with 2.8 million shares and Sir George Bolton, with 3 million shares, would support the board.

Mr Edward Du Cann, another director, revealed that proxies in favour of giving the board discretion to buy out the rest of the Nyasaland copper mine totalled 47 million shares compared with 1 million against.

But the very scale of the turnout—the usual figure is between 500 and 600—indicated the seriousness of the challenges. For at the back of the minds of the Lonrho faithful as they trooped to the microphones in the Great Hall of London's Grosvenor House hotel last night were the figures of Mr Graham Lacey, Shaikh Nasser Sabah al



Lonrho directors Lord Duncan-Sandys (left), Mr Edward Du Cann, Sir George Bolton and Mr Roland 'Tiny' Rowland at the annual meeting yesterday.

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Ahmed and Mr Daniel K. Ludwig, reportedly the richest man in the world and holder of 5 million Lonrho shares to which Mr Rowland controls the voting rights.

Shaikh Nasser, head of Gulf Fisheries and a member of the ruling family of Kuwait, known to be in negotiation with Mr Lacey over the Gulf stake. At first it seemed the evangelist, entrepreneurial Mr Lacey was simply interested in paying £200m for the Kuwaiti stake, then he proposed a bid for the whole of Lonrho was on the cards.

Mr Ludwig entered the Lonrho picture as a result of a

50-50 deal over Princess Properties International, a Bermudian company. Lonrho paid £35m cash and 5 million shares for the stake. At the meeting the chairman welcomed the "stimulating partnership" with Mr Ludwig.

"We are, in fact, looking jointly at possible projects in Central and South America, in which the technical experience we have acquired in other parts of the world could prove most useful," he said.

But Lord Sandys's opening address concentrated on the new found strength of Lonrho.

Continued on page 20, col 6

## Industry unscathed by steel strike

By Richard Allen

Newman Industries has dismissed Mr Alan Bartlett, its chairman, after last month's High Court ruling that he and Mr John Laughton, the former vice chairman, should pay damages for conspiracy.

The move comes ahead of court hearings expected to start on Monday to determine the full extent of damages as a result of Mr Justice Vinelott's ruling that Newman paid at least £450,000 too much for a package of assets and liabilities to Thomas Folee Gladstone (TFG) in 1975.

Mr Bartlett said last night he intended to appeal against the High Court decision in favour of an action brought by Newman minority shareholder, Prudential Assurance. "Fresh evidence will be produced," he said.

Mr Bartlett said he was deeply shocked at the ending of his service contract with the group and of his directorship of Newman and its subsidiaries.

"I shall contest the dismissal and will circulate shareholders whom I have served faithfully and well."

"The [other] directors have continuously approved the TPG transaction in public and in private. They know the transaction greatly benefited all Newman shareholders and employees."

"They know the horrendous cost of the Prudential action, which has brought Newman to its knees."

The board has responded to the pressure of a powerful minority without reference to the majority shareholders, employees and management."

In his summing up last month Mr Justice Vinelott said Mr Bartlett and Mr Newman had led the Newman board by

## Newman chief to fight dismissal

By Richard Allen

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## Britain presses for more Japanese technology

By Our Industrial Editor

Britain is pressing for more Japanese industrial investment to Britain as being underpinned by government encouragement for companies to acquire the latest Japanese technology.

Lord Trenchard, Minister of State for Industry, said last night that the Government was not "too proud" to encourage the transfer to Britain of up-to-date Japanese technology.

The Government's strong desire to encourage closer co-operation between industries of the two countries similar to the agreement reached between B.I. and Honda, emerged at a press conference at the end of a 10-day visit by a high level Japanese team of bankers and government officials.

Competition to attract Japanese investment to Europe is keen, particularly between Britain and the Irish Republic.

Britain has more than 20 Japanese companies—the highest number in Europe—operating in the United Kingdom employing about 6,000 workers. Over the last five years the Japanese presence in Britain has grown faster than anywhere else in western Europe.

The Government is aware that a number of Japanese companies are looking for bases in Britain.

The leader of the mission, Mr Toshikazu Hashimoto, an adviser to Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry, said the team had been impressed by the standard of labour relations at the plants they had visited and also by the infrastructure developments, the building of industrial sites and communication and educational facilities.

Most was accounted for by trade in diamonds, which is notoriously volatile. The figures suggest that shipments in January totalled £76m. Imports were also much increased from £29m in January 1979 to £53m this year.

Even allowing for inflation, the increase is large. Trade officials are now waiting to see if the trend will continue throughout this year, or whether the January totals represent a short burst of activity followed by a scaling down of trading activity.

Despite continuing political debate on further sanctions against the Soviet Union and government pressure on athletes to withdraw from the Moscow Olympics, there is little indication that trade has been adversely affected.

Indeed, bilateral trade has

grown substantially according to early returns for 1980. They show that in January, Britain imported goods worth £109.4m from the Soviet Union against only £56m in the same month in 1979.

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John Huxley

## Midland's profits leap by 36pc to £315.5m

By Roman Eisenstein

Banking Correspondent  
Midland Bank, the third of the big clearers to report on its 1979 figures, yesterday announced a 36 per cent rise in profits to £315.5m and a 21 per cent increase in dividends.

But it has followed the line set by National Westminster and Lloyds and adjusted its figures for inflation to show a profit rise of only £8m to £183m.

The banks are attempting to ward off criticisms of their "windfall" profits and are restating their figures under current cost accounting procedures proposed by the Institute of Chartered Accountants. In Midland's case this shows that after tax, losses on the sale of its shares in Standard and Chartered dividend payments there would have been an actual loss of £8m.

Midland's figures compare with a 49 per cent rise achieved by Lloyds and a 44 per cent increase reported by National Westminster.

Midland's chairman, said yesterday that this was because of the sale of the Bland Payne insurance business which in 1978 had contributed £25m to profits.

Most of the profits growth last year came from domestic operations, which rose by 70 per cent, while international earnings, including some non-banking activities, rose by 15 per cent.

High interest rates traditionally help the banks because they pay to depositors and what they charge customers widens. On the international level, Midland seems to have been aggressive in seeking deposits and has benefited significantly better than Lloyds. Last year total deposits amounted to £18,000m of which a third was in currencies other than sterling.

Shareholders' funds grew last year from £357.7m to £1,219.5m, partly due to a £126m property revaluation of freehold and long leasehold buildings.

Over the past 12 months Midland has been building up cash resources for a major foreign acquisition. It is gradually building up a bank which has its eye on possible targets in the United States but there are some fears now that Congress may impose a moratorium on foreign takeovers.

Yesterday Mr Malcolm Wilcox, a director and chief executive, said that "our information is that there will not be a ban on foreign investment." He stated that Midland was not having talks with anyone but "we are underinvested in the United States and are looking for a suitable moment to make one or more investments."

The United States apart, Midland has been making heavy inroads in France, where last year it acquired a wholesale bank.

The Midland expects interest rates to fall this year. Mr Wilcox estimated that by the end of the year the base rate could be down from the present 17 per cent to 12 per cent.

It is this fall in the clearing banks are hardly likely to report the same level of profits rises next time.

### PRICE CHANGES

S	4p to 68p	Jones (Ernest)	5p to 223p
I	4p to 165p	Massey Ferguson	5p to 395p
G	3p to 58p	Pullman R & J	2p to 47p
W	3p to 38p	Royal Woots	2p to 25p
r	5p to 145p	Schroders	20p to 486p

S	15p to 350p	Middle Wits	40p to 390p
ont	35p to 775p	Streeters	20p to 210p
nt	3p to 47p	Ultramar	15p to 56p
Gas	15p to 725p	W Rand Cons	27c to 743c

### THE POUND

Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
buy	sell	buy	sell
2.08	2.07	Norway Kr	11.55
29.95	28.45	Portugal Esc	112.00
2.40	2.39	South Africa R	1.87
2.44	2.43	Spain Pt	152.75
13.08	12.55	Sweden Kr	9.85
8.85	8.45	Switzerland Fr	4.85
9.75	9.35	USA \$	2.20
4.25	4.05	Yugoslav Dnr	52.50
9.75	9.35		
11.40	10.80		
1.71	1.67		
1945.00	1855.00		
571.00	548.00		
4.85	4.45		

## British company spreads the word about virtues of soft margarine Russians get a chance to tell the difference

Thanks to British technology it will soon be more difficult for Russian housewives to tell the difference between butter and margarine spread on their bread.

Previously, they have been in no doubt. Margarine has been fit only for cooking. For spreading, butter—much of it hacked from the famous European Community butter mountain—is used almost exclusively.

Soon housewives will be able to try soft margarine, which comes in tubs, for the first time. A. Johnson and Co (London) announced yesterday that it had won a £3m contract to supply a processing line for soft margarine to the Soviet Union.

A factory to be built on the outskirts of Moscow will produce a minimum of 1.5 million

containers of margarine a week. Johnson, a member of the £1,750m Axel Johnson group of Sweden, will also be responsible for making the tubs in association with John Waddington of Leeds.

Mr Fred De Saules, Johnson's deputy director of operations, explained that the company had supplied the Soviet Union with processing lines for "hard" margarine, which comes wrapped in paper, for 18 years.

It was expected that the soft margarine, something like Flora in the United Kingdom, will push butter gradually. As in the West, there were attractions from the health angle. Soft margarine was lower in calories.

The first soft margarine will come off the production line in

August, 1980. Before then Russian personnel will visit the United Kingdom to be trained in its production—and no doubt its consumption.

Mr De Saules said that the decision of the Russians to bring soft margarine on stream was not related directly to fears of the butter mountain disappearing. In fact Community exports of butter were expected to be resumed soon despite strong opposition from Britain's Conservative Euro-MPs.

Despite continuing political debate on further sanctions against the Soviet Union and government pressure on athletes to withdraw from the Moscow Olympics, there is little indication that trade has been adversely affected.

Indeed, bilateral trade has

grown substantially according to early returns for 1980. They show that in January, Britain imported goods worth £109.4m from the Soviet Union against only £56m in the same month in 1979.

Most was accounted for by trade in diamonds, which is notoriously volatile. The figures suggest that shipments in











## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Stock markets

## Gilt-edged shake off Wall Street gloom

The London stock market opened on a gloomy note with Wall Street's downturn and the news of Citibank's increase in prime rate to 18½ per cent pushing it 9.98 lower to 809.56. Investors were further depressed by the outcome of the Southend-by-election where the Conservative majority was slashed.

A downward drift in equity prices was also accentuated by the prospect of at least two more weeks of the steel strike and a lack of activity ahead of the Budget. But despite all the bad news at the end of the first week of the account, gilts were firmer throughout the day and one or two equity sectors staged slight rallies during the day.

Oils provided the most interest once again, with the major stocks losing ground as continued rumours about increased petroleum revenue persisted and windfall profit taxes were also linked with the banks. Among the second-line oil, the third bid for Viking Oil appeared from Mr Nelson Bunker Hunt's petroleum group at 450p plus one royalty. At one point the share price gained 70p in 30 minutes but later dropped to 1,050p, an overall gain of 35p. Clyde Petroleum, which announced a good oil find on Block 16/21, gained 27p to 352½ while the major stocks slipped back. BP's was the steepest fall, 18p to 350.

Mines also started the day badly as the gold price dropped to near \$500 an ounce—its lowest level since before Christmas—but the gold share prices were taken off the bottom after

in the day following the South African Government's announcement that gold production would be withheld.

In gilts, longs bucked the market trend, going steadily better throughout the day, and closed at their best levels with gains of ½. Shorts opened easier with the influence of prime rate increases, but man- aged to get back to the previous day's levels and closed £1/16 better after a slow session.

The FT index closed 7.1 down at 438.9 with the gradual slide taking place throughout the day.

On the leading industrials pitch, there was little selling. ICI lost 6p to 364p in the aftermath of the chairman's comments on capital expenditure, while Glaxo and Beecham both lost 4p to 246p and 118p respectively. Unilever saw a 5p fall to 435 and Dunlop, BAT Industries (still considered a possible bidder for Debenhams) and Pilkington were all

unchanged at 60p, 236p and 213p. Midland Bank's results, at £315m, slightly better than some estimates, took 3p off the price to 330p, while other companies which produced figures also saw falls. Bracken Mines were clipped 5c to 395c and Kiamos Mines dropped \$1 to 91.

While it still looks as if Waring and Galloway, the furniture retailer, will finally emerge as the bidder for Maple Holdings, its Tottenham Court Road neighbour, Maple's price, which was unchanged at 27½p, will have to drift back further before a 30p share bid will look attractive in view of the sharp earnings recovery.

The bid for Furness Withy from Mr C. Y. Tung was finally agreed at 420p a share and the price jumped 6p to 260p. Profit-takers moved in on African UK after bid speculation and it dropped back from 103p to 96p.

Montague L. Meyer's price also fell back 4p to 116p after its recent bid inspired gains. MFI Furniture, tipped as a possible bidder for Status Discount which was suspended on Thursday, continued to fall and lost 4p to 81p. W. H. Smith, which could also be negotiating a trading agreement with Status over its Homestores division, was unchanged at 146p. Channel Tunnel saw the most dramatic shift as 90p was knocked from the price to 140p as renewed thoughts of a link with the continent died away.

De La Rue fell 23p to 615p as rumours of a rights issue began to circulate, while United Biscuits which called for £34m the previous day saw a 4p drop to 80p.

BTR and Barratt Developments, both of which are reporting on Monday, had their prices shaved 6p to 336p and 4p to 121p respectively.

On the electricals side, where Pico is due to publish interim figures next week, there was

some nervous selling and the price closed 2p down at 130p. GEC lost 5p to 369p and Racal's price was clipped by 2p to 207p. Hoover put on 5p to 145p after fears that its products were being used as loss-leaders in discount stores.

Prices were steady among the engineers with Hawker Siddeley unchanged at 170p and Tinsley, which is due to report next week, remained at 284. KGN saw a 6p loss to 260p and Metal Box fell 4p to 246p.

The other clearing banks followed Midland and lost a few pence. Barclays, which is the last of the "big four" to produce results next week, was 3p down at 420p, while NatWest lost 2p to 323p.

Schroeders, which boosted profits and proposed a scrip issue on Thursday, added 2p to 490p.

Although Bass, among the breweries, shed 4p in the day over fears about Budget increases, it closed 2p up at 216p. Allied lost 1p to 71p.

Mines shares receded at the beginning of the day as the price but there was some recovery during the day, although Cons Gold was 1p down at 477p and RTZ lost 13p to 360p.

The Australians were also victims of the nervousness and Western Mining fell back 6p to 205p. MIM Holdings lost 5p to 220p.

Equity turnover for March 13 was £87,493m (number of bargains 14,008). The most active stocks, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were Channel Tunnel, Shell, BP, Imperial Continental Gas, Barmah, Consolidated Gold Fields, Lasso and Royal Insurance.

## Latest results

Company	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
£m	per share	pence	date	total	
Bridgewater Ests (F)	1.25(0.3)	—	11.5(10)	—	16(14.5)
Burdenshaw (I)	0.09(0.13)	0.41(0.53)	0.25(0.5)	6/5	—(1.1)
Corder Int (F)	2.46(1.76)	27.1(23.7)	4.0(1.22)	19/5	7.0(1.22)
Goodman Bros (I)	0.33(0.32)	1.67(1.58)	—	—	—(0.96)
Midland Bk (F)	315.5(231.4)	117.4(88.8)	12.5(9.94)	—	20(16.44)
I. D. & S. Rivlin (I)	0.007(0.002)	0.27(0.06*)	—	—	—
Sunbeam Welsley (F)	1.48(1.44)	13.5(14.3)	3.0(2.88)	23/5	4.0(3.85)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on profits per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. \* Loss.

## RETAIL PRICES

The following are the index numbers (January 15, 1974=100) for retail prices, not seasonally adjusted, issued by the Department of Employment yesterday.

	(1) All items	(2) All items except food	(3) Annual rate of increase in (2) over seasonal level, earlier year (%)
1979			
Jan	208.9	208.1	8.9
Feb	210.6	210.6	9.3
March	214.2	214.0	11.5
April	215.9	215.9	13.8
May	219.9	219.4	15.8
June	220.1	220.1	22.3
July	220.9	220.1	22.1
Aug	233.2	234.6	22.5
Sept	235.6	237.0	21.0
Oct	237.7	238.9	22.5
Nov	239.4	240.5	20.2
Dec	245.3	246.2	14.5
1980			
Jan	248.8	249.8	15.8

## INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT

The following are the index numbers for industrial production in January, seasonally adjusted, released by the Central Statistical Office yesterday (1979=100).

	Total	Manufacturing	Non-manufacturing
1979			
January	106.1	106.3	106.3
February	112.3	107.7	107.7
March	113.2	108.6	108.6
April	113.4	108.6	108.6
May	116.9	108.6	108.6
June	116.2	108.6	108.6
July	116.1	107.0	107.0
August	112.5	108.3	108.3
September	111.2	106.5	106.5
October	112.1	106.8	106.8
November	114.8	108.8	108.8
December	112.5	108.6	108.6
1980			
January	112.2	102.9	102.9

% rise in latest 3 months over previous 3 months +1.0 +2.2

## Panel censures three Gilgate directors

By Our Financial Staff

Three directors of property investment and development group Gilgate Holdings have been "severely censured" by the Takeover Panel.

Mr John Kidd, Mr David Lucas and Mr Christopher Reynolds, in the panel's view, should never have engaged in the purchase of Gilgate shares which led to a Rule 34 obligation to bid as they did not have the financial means to carry out that bid.

The panel adds: "Moreover the directors' obligation and concealed purchase of shares on July 2, 1976. The fact

that they left this purchase till a year and a day after the earlier purchase on July 1, 1975, thereby avoiding the obligation to make an offer at a much higher price, indicates that they were well aware of the provisions of the code."

The statement went on to say that Mr Kidd, who is chairman, and his colleagues have undertaken to pursue certain measures "which might possibly at some future date realize for shareholders some indeterminable value for their investment in Gilgate."

It adds that these measures will be closely monitored.

## Recovery under way at Rivlin

By Our Financial Staff

Drastic action calls for drastic measures and this is very much the case at D. S. Rivlin, the Cardiff-based clothing and textiles group.

Interim figures for the six months to October 31, show pretax profits dropping from £17,900 to £7,800 on turnover drastically cut from £3m to £1.9m. To add to the problems, the interim dividend has been passed and the final payment is expected to go the same way. The last payment was an interim of 1.7p gross back in 1977.

However, moves are afoot to put the group, which last year lost £53,000, back on a healthier footing. Mr A. J. Vogel, chairman, who was brought in eight months ago to undertake some urgent surgery, says that the worst is now over and the group can now concentrate on growth generated internally.

During his brief period in the driving seat, Mr Vogel has closed the import and wholesale fashion operations, resulting in about 80 redundancies. Mr Vogel added that fashion is a "diabolical business" to be in at any time as it was so seasonal and volatile. He said the group has closed several of its retail outlets and is currently negotiating for the sale of its Hongkong subsidiary, Eastport Textiles.

S. Hoffmann's board has written to shareholders, advising them to reject the offer from Burns and the offer from the company. The net asset value of each Hoffmann share is about 125p, compared with the Burns' offer of 90p, the board says.

The Royal Bank and Thomas Beesley have proposed to participate equally in a company to be known as Royal Bank Services, the main purpose of which will be to provide Government authorities with advice and assistance in the construction, equipping, modernization and operation of their main buildings. The initial share capital of the company will be £1,000 and the Crown's involvement will be limited to that of a 50 per cent shareholder.

Edinburgh Securities is to make a rights issue on a one-for-five basis at 115p per share to raise about £1.38m. The company's offshoot, Esco Exploration, is to apply for blocks in the forthcoming seventh round of United Kingdom offshore licensing. Shares are dealt in under Rule 163.

Hampton Gold Mining Areas: The following announcement has been issued by North Sea Sun Oil Company, the operator, with regard to the recent well drilled on block 16/21a in which Hampton Gold Mining Areas has a 5 per cent licence interest: North Sea Sun Oil Company, a subsidiary of Sun Company Inc., announces the completion of well 16/21a-2 in the United Kingdom sector of the North Sea. This test was a confirmation of the Paleocene discovery made in well 16/21-1 drilled in 1975. Engineering and reservoir studies in progress to evaluate the potential for development. Additional drilling is planned for the area in 1980.

Matthew Hall: United Kingdom Temperance and Profridit Institute acquired an interest in 911,000 shares (5.33 per cent) on March 11.

Bridgewater Estates: Pre-tax profits for 1979 rose from £800,000 to £1,250,000. Total payment, 22.85p gross (21.02p net).

Goodman Brothers & Stockman: Turnover for half-year to October 31 rose from £25.3m to £26.3m. Pre-tax profits, £1.48m (£1.44m). Total net dividend raised from 3.5p to 4p per share.

Burdens Investments: Turnover for half-year to November 20 rose from £5m to £5.75m, but pre-tax profits fell from £138,000 to £93,000. Interim dividend cut from 0.746p to 0.575p gross. Board warns that a loss must be expected for the second half-year.

Sunbeam Welsley: Turnover (Irish currency) for 1979 rose from £2.85m to £2.9m. Pre-tax profits, £1.48m (£1.44m). Total net dividend raised from 3.5p to 4p per share.

## Conder exceeds profit forecast

By Peter Wilson-Smith

A two-fifths increase in pre-tax profits to £2.45m from Conder International in the year to December 31 was marginally above the forecast of £2.4m made when the group came to the market last November.

Sales of the group's steel-framed buildings rose by 39 per cent to £92.6m. Exports increased faster than home sales and at £22.4m accounted for nearly a quarter of group sales.

The main overseas markets remain the Middle East and Asia. As forecast, the year's dividend is 10p gross. The shares were unchanged on the results and at 110p, compared with a price of 90p at which the group placed 18 per cent of the equity last November. The yield is 9.1 per cent. The p/a ratio is 7.7 on a full tax-charge. On the actual provision for tax, it falls to 4.1.

The outlook for 1980 is clouded by the steel strike and the group says it is too early to assess the effects which the strike may have on its results. Conder has already lost a £24m export order for an aluminium smelter in the Middle East, which went to the Japanese because Conder could not guarantee steel supplies. However, the United Kingdom order book is stronger than a year ago and well served between the public and private sectors.

Sale Times: Turnover for year to November 30, 1979, up from £34.3m to £66.25m. Pre-tax profits rose from £1.84m to £2.18m. Total payment raised from 8.21p (adjusted for scrip issue) to 9.64p.

## Hunt emerges as third bidder for Viking

By Peter Wilson-Smith

The auction for Viking Oil, which was held yesterday, saw the emergence of Hunt International Petroleum as a third potential bidder. Hunt has had talks with Viking which may lead to an offer worth £450 for each Viking share plus an royalty unit, dependent on future production and similar to those already offered by the two previous bidders, Sun Company and the German oil company Deminex.

The cash element of Hunt's proposed offer is 50p more than Sun was offering and puts a cash value on Viking Oil of £10.8m. Yesterday Viking shares, which are traded under Rule 163 (3), closed at £10.50—up 35p on the day.

The directors of Viking, who have recommended acceptance of both the two previous offers, are now holding fire pending clarification of the Hunt approach.

Already shareholders in Viking holding 30 per cent of the

equity have irrevocably taken to accept the Sun offer. They would be released from this undertaking only if Sun offer lapsed.

The proposed offer by Hunt would be conditional on no third party making a successful bid. It is an offer for all or not less a majority of the shares of Viking at a price of 50p per share.

The original bidder, Deminex, announced yesterday before Hunt emerged possible bidder, that it was considering whether or not to accept the offer. Deminex's bid was unchanged at £10.50 per share.

Viking and Hunt are closely associated in the Sea. Viking's main asset is a 20 per cent interest in the P21 covering Blocks 1 and 211/8A on the UK continental shelf. The other 8 per cent is held by Hunt national.

## H S Canada profits rise

Full year figures from Hawker Siddeley Canada, a subsidiary of the United Kingdom Hawker Siddeley, show a substantial increase in performance over last year.

Pretax profits for the year to December 1979 rose from £27.9m to £35.0m on turnover up from £554.0m to £598m. Earnings a share are £3.69 compared with £3.01 and

dividend payments account £3.053m against £3.42m.

The group started the year with a substantial order which it felt at the time was a breakthrough for the group which has Toronto, is involved in engineering activities and ship repair, transport and mining industry.

## THE ALLIANCE TRUST COMPANY LIMITED

The following is the Statement by the Chairman, Mr. David F. McCurrach, circulated with the Annual Report for the year to 31st January 1980.

Having presided for 12 years and being due to retire from the Board in two years' time, I think it right, while remaining a Director, to step aside from the Chair now. Your Directors have appointed Mr. George Dunn as your new Chairman and we all offer him our fullest confidence and support. He will take over at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting.

## RESULTS

Earnings are almost 25% higher at 10.33p including an exceptional 0.85p of arrears of dividends from Shell Transport & Trading and British Petroleum. Without this special factor the increase would be 17%. Franked investment income rose by £1,286,000 as U.K. dividends were freed from dividend restraint. Sterling unfranked income was down because of a smaller investment in U.K. gilts but this was more than counterbalanced by greater income from funds invested in short term deposits during a period of rapidly rising interest rates. Although overseas investment income was greater in foreign currency terms, there was no net benefit due to the continuing strength of sterling against most other currencies. However, royalty income from oil-bearing land in the U.S.A. was a record at £87,000 which, together with £90,000 received from bonus payments and rentals on leases (credited to Capital Reserve), reflects the present high level of oil prices and activity in exploration. These interests now have a value far in excess of the Balance Sheet figure of £30,000: a valuation is being secured.

Your Directors recommend a final dividend of 6.35p making a total of 10.0p (including 0.85p in respect of arrears of dividends received) against 8.0p last year, an increase of 25%. Although growth of income cannot be expected to repeat last year's exceptional pace, a further rise may be anticipated this year in the absence of any major change in investment policy. Our earnings estimate for 1980/81 already stands at 10.74p.

## INVESTMENT POLICY

While our valuation of £154,892,000 did not match the record level of last year this was entirely due to the dismantling of exchange controls during the year which eliminated the investment currency premium. Without the premium at both dates our valuation rose by 10%.

The feature of the year was the strength of oil and oil equipment shares, particularly in the U.S.A. where several of our holdings more than doubled in price. Oil stocks were well represented in our published list of the 40 largest investments. We have added almost £8 million to our Far East and continental equities and over £2 million to German bond holdings, while reducing exposure to U.K. equities by £5.3 million and U.S. equities by £2.6 million.

During its first full year of operations our leasing subsidiary wrote £3.4 million of business with lessees of the highest credit. Profitability is well up to expectations and should be reflected in the accounts as the portfolio matures in 1981-82 onwards.

## INFLATION AND INVESTMENT

Perhaps in a final speech I may be allowed some personal observations at large on the besetting economic evil of our times—inflation—and its bearing on productive investment. The weakness of investment in the U.K. is secondary only to the other evil. A few years ago it was common to speak of the going rate of inflation as a function of expectations. Now, alas, expectations have become institutionalised in a host of devices, outstandingly escalation and indexation. These may originally have had some merit to the extent that, as in pensions, they protected the weak. But they have been taken over by the strong and it was always predictable that they would only aggravate the curse. The big unions in the U.S. built escalation into their contracts years ago and the going rate is implicit in the starting point for all U.K. negotiations. Now OPEC has taken it over in fixing oil prices. We have reached the stage where we are all the victims of our own simple arithmetic, but at compound interest. And we have a built-in ratchet, perpetuating rises but preventing falls. All this has not lessened, but enlarged, the distortions and strains—and the inequities. There is also the damaging contrast between those countries swallowing the illusion (we are an extreme case) and those few, like Germany, who have not. But above all, coming closer to our own affairs and bearing directly on the future living standards of both the weak and the strong, inflation in alliance with these devices and coupled with the measures designed to counter them, threatens to sterilise all new productive investment. Confidence

## THE FUTURE

These rather desperate pleas do not imply any lack of confidence in the Company's future. For the shorter term our current policies of selectivity and specialisation are, we believe, appropriate for the hazardous conditions in which we live and the discouraging outlook for general trade and investments. For the longer term, and it is on this that a true judgment of investment trusts should be made, the record shows our ability to adapt and adjust. When I became a Joint Manager in 1952 we were still 25% in Fixed Interest, largely Preference Stocks. We had pioneered in the restoration of our U.S. equities, decimated by wartime requisitioning, up from 15% to 20% that year and reaching 44% by 1958. In 1952 our net asset value (typically in those days not even noted in the Report) was only £0.20; now it is £2.79. Our Gross Revenue had just passed the £1 million mark for the first time; now it is over £9 million. And the Gross Ordinary Dividend (raised from 40% to 50%) was £525,000: the corresponding figure this year is £7,200,000. Our comparative record may be summarised as follows (the F.T. Index although not entirely satisfactory is the only one available) expressing increases as multiples:

Alliance Trust Ordinary Dividends	13.7 times
F.T. Index Dividends	5.2 times
Alliance Trust Net Asset Value	14.0 times
F.T. Index	4.1 times
Alliance Trust Share Price	10.1 times
Cost of Living Index	6.1 times

These results cover nearly three decades of the most violent and rapid change in trade and finance world-wide, as well as continuous tight and changing Government controls and two major restructurings of the tax system, all of these hitting us badly and vastly complicating our task. None the less, and despite the widened discount in our share price against asset value, the long-term holder has been not merely protected against inflation but both income and capital, but well rewarded.

We have today a fine management and staff team supported by the most advanced technical apparatus. I am confident that in today's freer air they will do even better. I take this chance to thank them all, and their predecessors over the years, for their loyalty and dedication, as I do my past and present colleagues on the Board for their counsel, for their tolerance and for their support.

22nd February 1980.

Copies of the Report and Accounts can be obtained from The Secretary at Meadow House, 64 Reform Street, Dundee DD1 1TJ.

## Briefly

Electrolux Group's sales in 1979 rose by 25.9 per cent to 15,137m (about £1,583m). Operating result, before depreciation, 1,735m (£1,735m). Result before tax, 513m (£513m). Dividend raised from 6.25 to 7.50 a share. For 1980, the operating result after financial income and expenses from current operations for the group, excluding Granges, is expected to increase by 10 per cent.

## Options

Traded options ended the week in rather dull form yesterday, not helped by the latest setback in the rest of the market. However, a rally in the close by RIT and Consolidated Gold Fields enabled the total number of contracts to be lifted but overall the number remained pitifully low at 365 compared with 695.

In the end it was the late rally by Cons Gold which stole the show with 142 contracts of which the April 460p series came in for special attention as the share price fell 1p to 477p.

BP following Thursday strong profits performance continued to draw attention with 102 contracts of which the April 350p series featured.

In traditional options dealers again reported quieter conditions again as a result of the inactive equity market. Call continued to be made in the oils on more speculative issue with puts being arranged in Hampton St. Ultramar, Shell and Barmah.

## Hampton Trust

Hampton Trust has renegotiated its existing agreement with Western Mining Corporation regarding East Location 45 and associated areas in the Kalgoorlie district, Western Australia. WMC will renew its lease of the whole of Location 45 (less the Mt. Martin area) for a period of three years with an option for WMC to renew for a further period of three years.



Mr. Walker-Arnett (left) and Mr. Ferguson, representatives of Gulf Fisheries, observe the proceedings.

hauling the market, thus depressing the share price.

"This must be contrary to the interests of shareholders", he said.

He called on the board to make any future acquisitions for cash and to raise that cash by means of a rights issue. Any new shares should not be issued until after the interim figures had been digested by the market. And he asked for assurances that the board's statement in the annual report that it had no present intention of issuing the shares should be restated.

The chairman said the board had acted responsibly and a resolution was not unnecessary. He said it would be wise to tie the hands of the board.

Between 15 and 20 were raised against the resolution and the chairman called an "overwhelming" majority.

The resolution on the share price was defeated. Mr. Dunn, who reported that Sir George Bolton had looked into the possibility of buying the stake for some £1 million, stressed the board's intention of acting immediately but the resolution would be free to do so.

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§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

[illegible]















